Pope said to accept lraqi invitation

BAGHDAD (R) - Pope John Paul has accepted an invitation by the Iraqi government to visit Iraq, the spiritual leader of Iraq's one million Christians said on Saturday. The head of the Roman Catholic Church would be able to "see the suffering of the Iraqi people," Chaldean Patriarch Rufael Bedawced fold a news conference, referring to the impact of the United Nations trade embargo on Iraq. No date bas been set for the papal tour, he added. Officials at the Vatican were pot immediately available to comment. The Pope is due to visit Lebanon in May. Christian leaders of Middle East churches visiting Iraq denounced the trade sanctions which were imposed on Iraq after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. "We have seen the suffering and lived with it for several days," they said in a joint statement. "It is a flagrant aggression against human rights... we persistently call for a lifting of the cmbargo... regardless of political differences between governments," the statement said. The pairiarchs arrived in Iraq on Monday. Michael Sahbah of Jerusalem read the statement which was also attended by patriarchs of Egypt, the Armenians and the Maronius.



Arafat doubts Israel wants peace

BONN (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat was quoted on Saturday as saying he doubted Israel's commitment to the Sept. 13 peace agreement for limited Palestinian autonomy in the occupied Gaza Smip and West Bank town of Jericho. "It looks as though they do not want peace," Mr. Arafat told the German news magazine Der Spiegel, referring to Israel's hesitation to withdraw from those areas. Israeli troops should havae pulled out of Gaza and Jericho in December under the Sept. 13 deal. But security disputes have delayed the withdrawal and more doubts have been raised about the future of the accord since an Israeli extremist killed about 60 Muslims as they prayed at a Hebron mosque on Feb. 25. Mr. Arafat said Isracli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was stalling instead of reacting to the Hebron massacre by evacuating extremist Jewish settlers from Gaza and the Wesl Bank. In excerpts from the interview released ahead of publication oo Monday, Mr. Arafat said the Hebron killing had boosted the position of Palestinian extremists in the

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Palestinians fight pitched battles with Israeli troops

Resistance goes hand-in-hand with talks, leaders say

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Young Palesti-nians and Israeli troops fought pitched hattles in Jerusalem Saturday after resistance hero Salim Žerai, who served 23 years in prison, exborted Palestinians to take op the gun again at a raily marking the Hehron mosqoe massacre.

There were few casualties in the fighting that swirled through the Arab sector, with the protesters hurling rocks and bottles and security forces firing ruhber bullets and teargas in streets around the old walled city.

But the clashes and the rhetoric underlined how the shock waves from the Feh. 25 slaughter cootinue to reverberate arouod the Holy Land, sharpening old hatreds and

jeopardising the Middle East peace process.

Israeli police fired ruhber bullets at dozens of Palestinian youths throwing stooes in Arah East Jerusalem, police and witnesses said.

Hospital sources said 20 Palestinian youths were admitted with wounds. Palestinian witnesses said two of them were seriously wounded.

Arab sources said troops and Palestimans also clashed in Hebroo and the West Bank town of Bethlehem.

A Reuter photographer said several Palestinians and an international photo journalist were wounded lightly in the clashes which erupted on Salaeddin street, near the Old

A police spokesman said pa-

ramilitary border police used rubber bullets to "disperse the youths" and arrested two.

"The settlers and the occupatioo don't know anything hut the language of bul-Mr. Zerai told a 300strong crowd fired up by tapes of emotional songs about returning refugees hy the Lebanese diva Fairouz.

"Israel, like all previous occupations of Palestine, can only be driven out by force," Mr. Zerai said.

As the crowd chanted "until victory," Mr. Zerai said: "We have to respond to the massacre... and return to the in-

"Negotiations most continoe, hut the struggle must continue by every means possi-

Speaker after speaker linked the Hehron slayings to earlier massacres of Arabs — Deir Yassin in 1948, in which 260 were killed by Israelis, Kufr Qassem in 1956, with 43 slain, and the 1982 Sabra and Shatilla bloodhath in Beirut when as many as 800 unarmed people were slaoghtered by Israelihacked Lebanese gunmen. Mr. Zerai, a Palestinian

hero, served 23 years in prison for an abortive 1970 seaborne raid on Israel. He was freed following the Sept. 13 peace accord hetween Israel and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

His fiery exhortations followed similar calls for vengeance by Palestinian fac-

(Continued on page 5)



An Israeli soldier wrestles down a Palestinian to ground to arrest him during clashes in Arah East Jerusalem on Saturday

Darawshe, delegation head for Syria today

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Fifty Israeli Arabs will leave for Syria Sunday, on an unprecedented visit, to convey their condolences to President Hafez Al Assad on the death of his son Bassel in January, their leader said on Saturday.

"It is a chance to meet with President Assad in order to show our respect for him and the Syrian; people," Abdul Wahab Darawsbe, leader of the Arah Democratic Party in the Israeli parliament, told Renters.

It is the first time Syria has allowed a delegation of Israeli Arabs to visit Damascus.

Mr. Darawshe said the group would travel to Syria via Cairo and hoped to meet Mr. Assad on Monday.

He said it would comprise

prominent figures in the Israeli Arah community including another member of parliament, local council heads, intellectuals and journalists.

A government-run Syrian newspaper, meanwhile, denounced the promulgation of reported death threats against Syria's small Jewish community as an Israeli campaign to divert attention from the grisly Hebron massacre.

Israel, "by circulating such illusions, is trying to transfer the worldwide denunciation for what it has perpetrated in the Ibrahimi Mosque into a new direction," the daily Tishrin said in a front-page editorial.

"Israeli claims spring from continuous Israeli attempts to raise doubts about the situa-tion in Syria." Tishrin said. "By doing this, Israel will reap nothing but failure and will never be able to acquit itself of the crimes it commits daily against Arah citizens and holy places."

Syria, along with Jordan, Lehanon and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). suspended peace talks with Israel after the Feh. 25 hloodshed when a Jewish settler opened fire on praying Muslims and killed at least 60

people. Tishrin dismissed the reported death threats as "mere lies" and said that Syria's Jews, who number fewer than 1,000, were fully integrated, enjoyed the same rights as other Syrian citizens and were living peace-

On Thursday, Syria's senior Jewish cleric sald Syrian authorities had intensified security to protect the country's few Jews following threats their hlood would hegin spilling March 13 in revenge for the massacre. (see page 2)

Yemenis protest against leadership feud

SANAA (R) — Yemenis, including members of the armed forces, held protests in universities in Sanaa and Aden on Saturday to protest against the dangers of the country splitting in two because of factional bickering, witnesses said.

The strikes were called by the Yemeni Organisation for Human Freedoms and Civil Rights, a non-government Several hundred people took

part, including army officers, university professors, lawyers, workers, engineers, journalists and tribal leaders.

It was not clear how many members of the army attended

the sit-in protests. Organisers said the protests were aimed at protecting the unity of Yemen, forged be-tween north and south in 1990, and implementing a reconciliation accord which provides for political, economic, military

and administrative reforms. The protests staged in universities io the capital Sanaa and Aden, capital of the former south, followed clashes between units of the armed forces which bave not fully merged yet.

Political leaders of both sides have accused each other of not implementing the reconciliation accord which is aimed at ending the seven-month crisis threatening to redivide Ye-

Another sit-in is planned on Sunday in Taiz, a northern province close to the former border between North and oth Yemen, the organisation said.

Protesters said in statements on Saturday that their actioo was being carried out under the slogans of "prohibit fighting" and the "the homeland is

Only hours after the signing of an accord in Jordan last mooth by Presideot Ali Abdullah Saleh and his estranged deputy Ali Salem Al Beidh, clashes erupted between rival army units in the north and south.

A joint military committee made up of Yemem, Jordanian and Omani officers and the U.S. and French military attaches in Sanaa has been set up to disengage the troops and return them to their bases.

Mr. Saleh, addressing worshippers after Friday prayers in Sanaa, said: "We will do our utmost to contain the crisis. Let our people be assured we will not allow fighting or the shedding of blood for the sake Mr. Saleb, quoted by the

official SABA oews agency, added: "Nobody bas the right to impose bis own guardianship on the unity of the people, whether he is an individual, party or group, there is no giving up of unity, whatever the price."

Mr. Beidh, in a recorded speech to army and security commanders in Adeo, broadcast by Aden Television, said Mr. Saleh had evaded implementing the Amman accord, which calls for the arrest of people suspected of political killings.

"We are committed to the accord and insist on implementing the first clause which is the arrest of criminals," Mr. Beidh said. His Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) says 154 of its members have been killed since the two Yemens united.

Mr. Beidh quoted Mr. Saleb as saying during a private meeting in Amman that "be nnot take measures a the criminals because this will cause him problems in Sanaa. Mr. Beidh said dozens of

people bad been killed in clashes in the southern province of Abyan and to the north of Sanaa. He hlamed the violence on

forces from the north hut he urged units from the two rival armies, still divided, not to raise their weapons against

Popoulias in Syria

DAMASCUS "(Agencies)" -Greek Foreign Minister Carolos Papoulias arrived Saturday as part of a fresh Enropean effort to revive Middle East wake of last Monday's Hebron massacre.

Mr. Papoulias, who came from Cairo on the last leg of a Middle East tour that also took him to Tunisia, Jordan and Israel, told reporters he would discuss with Syrian officials "matters of common interest." He did not elaborate. Mr. Papoulias's visit came

fews after Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) walked out of the peace talks io Washington in protest against the Hebron massacre. He earlier told reporters that an international force to protect the Palestinians in the

occupied West Bank and Gaza

Strip was among the ideas be discussed with Israeli officials. Mr. Papoulias began talks with Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa late Saturday and was expected to meet with

other officials Sunday. Mr. Papoulias met Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo earlier Saturday hut gave no sign of progress in their attempt to save the Middle

East talks After 90 minutes with Mr. Mubarak, Mr. Papoulias told reporters: "We discussed the possibilities of contiouing the peace process after the bloody Hebron incident."

the massacre and shouting

One of his most fervent

defenders was Shimon Peres,

Israel's foreign minister and

its point man in the peace

negotiations, who shouted

down right-wing legislators in the Knesset last Wednesday.

"Attack Arafat all you want," Mr. Peres said. "I sat

days and nights across from

him. ... I want Arafat to be a

partner who can lead his peo-

ple to peace. We need to help

Mr. Peres, a prime minis-

ter in the era when Israeb

governments routinely label-

led Mr. Arafat a terrorist,

blasted Israelis who express-

ed solidarity with Baruch

Goldstein, killer of the

this partner."

"Death to the traitors."

Israel urges resumption of talks; Palestinians want changes in deal TEL AVIV (Agencies) - able now. It is high time that

Israel, after a week of non-stop violence over the Hebron massacre, appealed to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on Saturday to reopen direct talks on Palestinian selfrule in the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho.

Uri Savir, foreign ministry director-general, said the Heb-ron killings were "a serious blow to the peace process" but urged the PLO to accept an invitation from the United States to restart peace talks with Israel in Washington.

The PLO halted talks with Israel on implementing their September declaration of principles after the Hebron massacre.

"We must again break the wall of suspicion. We have to again talk directly oo tracks acceptable to both sides hecause part of the negotiations is creating new mutual trust," Mr. Savir, who participated in negotiations with the PLO since their secret start in Oslo last year, told Israel Radio.

Palestinian leaders said Saturday the PLO should insist on modifying its self-rule deal with Israel so that some Jewish settlements — "timebombs" in the occupied territories -were evacuated.

Palestioian leader Faisal Al Husseini said the Hehron massacre had changed the situation.

"What was acceptable in

Oslo and Cairo is not accept-

the world deals with Palestinian security, settlements are time bombs," be told a rally at the Palestinian National Theatre in Arab East Jerusalem. "Before it is too late, we

should modify the Oslo agreement in order to make the transfer period a success,' Ghassan Khatih told Reuters. Israel and the PLO agreed in

the Sept. 13 deal to allow some 120,000 Jews in 140 settlements to remain in place during the interim five-year period of limited Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho. Mr. Khatib, a former

Palestinian negotiator, said settlements within highly populated Palestinian areas. iocluding the Jewish enclave in Hebron and the settlements of Netzarim and Kfar Darom io the Gaza Strip, should he evacuated immediately.

"This is to avoid any clashes between the armed settlers and armed Palestinians such as the Palestinian police force in the near future," said Mr. Khatih, director of the Jerusalem Media and Communications Centre.

PLO chief negotiator Nabil Shaath said io Washington after talks with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher that the United Nations was near agreement, with U.S. backing, on a proposal for an armed ioternational presence in the

Asked for his response to

the idea, Mr. Savir said.

"When the negotiations begin we'll be able to discuss security issues and issues of temporary international civilian presence on the basis of the (Sept. 13) DoP (Declaration of Priociples).

"Real change will not come about because of international presence, in the final analysis, security is dependent oo the way both these peoples will live together."

Dr. Shaath, speaking to reporters in Washington, said there was a "real effort (being made) to come out with a (U.N.) Security Council re-solution today" condemning

the Hehron massacre.
Mr. Christopher posed for pictures with Mr. Shaath ahead of their meeting but his aides would not allow reporters to be present and ask questions.

Dr. Shaath, political adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, came to Washington to discuss Palestinian demands for resuming peace talks with Israel that were jeopardised by the Hehron massacre and Palestinian rage in its after-

He told reporters: "The U.N. resolution is a resolution that states the requirements for the Palestinian people that can be satisfied by the Security Council, including the international presence in the occupied territories that would provide security for the Palestinian

(Continued on page 5)

Afrikaners reject taking part in elections

PRETORIA (AP) - An umhrella group of pro-apartheid whites on Saturday rejected taking part in the nation's first all-race election, even though one of its leaders registered for the vote.

A meetiog of the self-declared parliament of the Afrikaner Volksfront voted against participating in the April 26-28 vote, and its leader said the group would work against the election. 'If we take part in the elec-

tion, we would just be endorsing its legitimacy," Ferdi Hartzenberg said in anoouncing the decision to the so-called "Boer parliament" of about 100 rightwing white leaders. "We would just be endorsing the oppression of our people and that would be unacceptable."

Retired army General Constand Viljoen, another Afrikaner Volksfront leader who registered for the election 20 minutes before the deadline expired Friday night (see page 8), said he accepted the deci-

"This is the wish of the people," he said, adding the group would simply fail to submit a list of candidates by the Wednesday deadline, which would cause its registration to

The Afrikaner Volksfront had vehemently opposed the election, and Viljoen's surprise registration sparked speculation of a split and among the various pro-apartheid white groups it represents.

But his response to Saturday's decision gave little in-(Continued on page 5)

White House counsel resigns over Whitewater-linked criticism was among White House aides lawyer, even one acting as

WASHINGTON (AP) — White House Counsel Bernard Nussbaum submitted his resignation Saturday, bowing to criticism of his haodling of questions related to the Whitewater land deal. His resignation is effective April 5.

"I believe I can best serve you by returning to private life," Mr. Nussbaum said in a letter to President Bill Clinton. He insisted he had conducted himself "in an absolutely legal and ethical manner.

Mr. Nussbaum, 57, said he had made his decision "as a result of controversy generated by those who do not understand, nor wish to understand the role and obligations of a

White House counsel." Mr. Clinton, in a letter of

reply that took indirect note of the cootroversy surrounding Mr. Nosshaum, said be accepted the resignation "with deep regret."
"It has been said that the

best a man can give is bis biviog spirit to a service that is not easy." Mr. Clinton wrote. 'Aod we have worked together in Washington at a time wheo serving is hard." Mr. Nusshaum said his res-

ignation would take effect April 5. His announcement capped a week in which it bad been revealed that Mr. Nussbaum

who met privately last fall with treasury officials to discuss the federal inquiry into a failed Arkansas savings and loan with ties to the president and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton (see page 8).
Mr. Clinton said the meet-

ings oever should have occurred and was said to be particuiarly upset with Mr. Nussbaum. He passed up repeated opportunities to come to the defeose of his counsel.

The exchange of letters was released at midday Saturday, a day after Mr. Nussbaum told Mr. Clinton in a private Oval Office meeting that he would

Hebron mosque massacre turns Arafat's world upside down

By Salah Nasrawi The Associated Press

TUNIS — Yasser Arafat's world turned upside down last week: The Israeli foreign minister praised bim to Jews while Palestinians who once honoured him as the father of their not-yet nation burned him in effigy.

The West Bank massacre of Palestinian men and boys by a Jewish settler in a mosque in Hebron further shrank support for the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Fax machines hummed in Tunis, exile bome of the PLO, as erstwhile Arafat loyalists urged immediate withdrawal from the peace talks with Israel.

Even staff members of the PLO political department in a fax to Mr. Arafat with copies to foreign news agencies - advocated a return to armed struggle, "our only and mevitable option." In another multidestina-

tion fax, three Palestinian intellectuals whose writings are well-known to Arab readers called Hebron "a testimonial of death for Arafat's recognition of Israel." "We demand that those

who grow illusions stop implanting them in the minds of our people," said Ahmad Dahbour, Rashed Abu Shawar and Tawfiq Fayadh. Mr. Arafat's office overflowed with PLO leaders con-

ferring on a response to the Feb. 25 massacre. Rhetorical sniping came from inside and outside Mr. Arafat's coterie. "Arafat is just clinging to a

very thin rope, and soon we

will see him sinking in the

mud," said a spokesman for

Hamas, a group that poses

the Israeli-occupied territor-'He is in the weakest position ever because this time be

the biggest challenge to the PLO claim of leadership in

is challenging the will of bis own people, who are becoming discochanted with his policies of making peace with the Zionists," the Hamas spokesman, Ibrabim Ghosheh, said m Amman. Discontent spread within the PLO's inner circles in

"Arafat is finished and bis days are numbered," said a senior official who was one of Mr. Arafal's closest aides for the past decade. Like many PLO meo reassessing their futures, he spoke on condition of anocymity.

PLO insiders said the PLO

chairman was stunned by

televised scenes of Palesti-

nians burning his effigy after

praying Palestinians in Heb-Goldstein, Mr. Peres declared, was "a Nazi" perhaps the most pejorative label a can pio on another Jew in a country built on memories of Adolf Hitler.

Mr. Arafat, in a flurry of interviews with foreign journalists last week, sometimes sounded like a man betrayed. Speaking to an Associated Press reporter two days after

flected on his triumphal return to Tunis after the signing of the Israeli-PLO peace plan in Washington on Sept. 13. Last fall, Mr. Arafat had declared he had "a friend in the White House." That proud proclamation has been replaced by a question:

Where is President Clinton

the Hebron killings, he re-

when we need him? lt was "regrettable," Mr. Arafat said, that the United States did not pressure Israel to make concessions after Hehron, such as accepting international observers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as Israel prepares to return the lands to Palestinian rule.

On Thursday, the Spanish newspaper El Pais published an interview in which it asked Mr. Arafat who was in the more difficult position after the Hebron massacre, himself or Yitzhak Rabin, the

Israeli prime mioister.

Mr. Arafat said he was, "because 1 fight for peace, and up to now there is no peace. Rahin manoeuvres and does not work for peace. So I'm the one who is paying the price for peace, and I'm

paying too bigh a price." In an effort to forge a PLO response to the Hebron massacre, Mr. Arafat called a meeting of the PLO Executive Committee Feh. 27.

Only seven of the 12 remaining members turned up. Five refused to attend because, they said, Mr. Arafat would do as he wanted whatever the committee decided.

Six other members of the

committee already had left because of this bighhandedness or because they rejected the peace agree-The PLO bureaucracy in

Tunis is down to about 1,000 people from 10,000 five years ago. Many who remain talk of leaving when their chil-dreo's school year ends in July.

A former senior official; Bilal Al Hassan, wrote last month in the London newspaper Al Sharq Al Awsat that PLO officials and bureaucrats peeling away at the rate of about 15 a week. Most seek asylum in Norway or the Netherlands, said Mr. Hassan, who now lives in

He said the PLO, months behind in meeting many payrolls, provides those departing with one-way plane tickets to Europe.

Mogadishu gunmen attack Egyptian, Italian troops

MOGADISHU (Agencies) -Somali gunmen firing rocketpropelled grenades and one mortar round staged a series of nvernight attacks on Egyptian and Pakistani peacekeeping troops in South Mogadishu.

U.N. military spokesman Major Christopher Budge said one Pakistani soldier suffered a, minor leg wound from mortar shrapnel and one Somali was wounded in the attacks late Friday and early Saturday.

An American soldier who could hear the fighting from his position said hundreds of rounds were exchanged in fighting around an Egyptian strong point that flared and waned for almost four hours.

Maj. Budge said neither the United Nations nor the Egyptians knew the motive for the seemingly organised attacks. He said they also did not know if the same groups attacked both the Pakistanis and the Egyptians.

The attacks come at a time of an anti-Egypt campaign on the streets of south Mogadishu. General Mohammad Farish Aideed's Somali National Alliance ISNAt have portraved rival warlord Ali Mahdi Mohammad's ongoing talks in Cairo as an Egyptian attempt to sabotage Gen. Aideed's reconciliation efforts in Narrobi. Alliance (SNA) have por-trayed rival warlord Ali Mahdi Mohammad's ongoing talks in Cairo as an Egyptian attempt to sabotage Gen. Aideed's reconciliation efforts in Nairobi.

Leaflers accusing the Egypoans of trying to colonise Somalia have been circulated in recent days in south Mogadishu, which is controlled by Gen. Aideed's SNA militia. Maj. Budge said the U.N.

had no indication other than

SANAA (AP) - Western oil-

men are coming under attack

hy heavily armed raiders they

believe are seeking to force

them to ahandon operations

that are vital to Yemen's eco-

icans, Canadians and French-

men — are rejuctant to talk

publicly about the attacks. Bot

several told The Associated

Press they believe the raids are

part of a systematic campaign

of intimidation, possibly orga-

ported in October that Presi-

dent Francois Mitterrand was

deeply concerned about the

attacks on French oilmen "hy

Yemen tribesmen allied with

The Saudis have been at

odds with the Yemenis for

deendes. That friction intensi-

fied in 1990, when Yemen re-

fused to support the U.S.-led

exulation against fraq for in-

in the past armed Yemeni

tribes along the poorly de-

fined long-disputed border.

But officials contacted by the

AP in Saudi Arabia expressed

corprise at any suggestion that

their country was involved in

the attacks. They spoke only

The collapse of Yemen's oil

industry would devastate the

country's economy and likely

sound the death knell of the

increasingly fractious May

1990 merger between con-

servative, tribal North Yemen

Current production is

around 335,000 barrels a day

and is expected to hit 800,000

The Huni-Yemen Oil Co., a

subsidiary of the Dallas-based

Hunt Oil Co. and France's

and the socialist South.

in the next few years.

on condition of anonymity.

The Saudi government has

Saudi Arabia.

vadine Kuwait.

France's Liberation daily re-

nised from outside Yemen.

The oilmeo — mainly Amer-

nomic development.

the location of the attacks in south Mogadishu that any particular group might be behind the raids.

He said the attacks began with a mortar round that wounded the Pakistani soldier at about 11 p.m. (2000 GMT). The Pakistani posioon is near the Egyptian strong point.

About a half hour later, Maj. Budge said two pickup trucks loaded with armed Somalis opened fire on the Egyptian strong point close to the intersection of the Oct. 21 and Medina roads.

Somalis attacked the Egyptian position again at about midnight (2100 GMT) with small arms, homemade grenades and three rocket-propelled grenades, said Maj. Budge.

An hour later, Somali gunmen fired on the position again with small arms. The fighting continued off and oo until about 3 a,m. (0000 GMT), when Somali gunmen got to within 100 metres) of the position, Maj. Budge said one Somali was wound d in the last firefight, but was recovered and taken away by a group of unarmed Somalis.

Italian embassy attacked

Up to 30 Somali gunmeo attacked the Italian embassy in north Mogadishu on Friday and soldiers inside killed at least one Somali when they returned fire, military officials

The Italians, scheduled to pull out their troops along with other Western peacekeepers before the end of March and evacuate their embassy, drove off two assaults by the gunmen who quickly vanished when U.S. and Italian helicopters took to the skies.

Total have been the main

targets of the oilfield attacks.

They are among some 20 fore-

ign oil companies operating in

Yemen, where Hunt disco-

Hunt's Yemen general man-

ager, George Slaughter, like

other oil company chiefs con-

tacted by the AP, declined to

discuss the attacks on the re-

of Canadian Occidental Pet-

roleum, also refused comment

on the security problem during

he said. "And as we all know,

democracy doesn't arise sud-

Jenly. It's an evolving process

and, by any standard, Yemen

government has never been

able to control, have for years

hijacked cars at gunpoint and

kidnapped foreigners to force

the envernment to redress grie-

vances or secure oil company

But senior oil executives and

Western diplomats, insisting

on anonymity, said the pattern

of attacks has changed in re-

cent mnnths to raids and

bombings they say are too well

organised and executed to be

the work of inbesmen alone.

ing and shooting now," one

company manager said.

'That's not the attitude of peo-

tn one of the heaviest

attacks, more than 50 raiders

with machine-guns and anti-

tank rockets attacked a logis-

ties have operated by Total in

the Shabwa region of southern

In the 50-minute dawn

assault, at least one Yemeni

guard was killed and several

were wounded. The raiders

Yemen last September.

ple who want to bargain."

"They just come out bomb-

Unruly tribesmen, who the

is performing quite well."

"It's a young democracy."

a January visit.

Bernard Isautier, president

vered oil 10 years ago.

Near the southern Somali port of Kismayu, rival clan mibtias skirmished while fighters allied to Gen. Aideed closed in the contested area, U.N. military officials said.

"Because we are withdrawing, our soldiers are oo a high state of readiness and could deal with the attack," Italian Lieutenant-Colonel Gianfranco Scalas said of the embassy

Col. Scalas, who said a second Somali was wounded, speculated that the Somalis were Irving 10 loof the embassy. "We did not have any warning of an attack, but since they know we're going to leave the embassy they may have anticipated our withdrawal to try to get hold of material,"

Somali witnesses said the attack was the work of former embassy employees who were disgruntled over their final

pay-off. Helicopters from a flotilla of ships off the coast covering the withdrawal swooped about over the broken city at dusk in a scene recalling the days last year when U.N. forces were locked in a fued with Gen. Aideed's militias.

The (U.S.) joint task force and Italian helicopters and a UNOSOM (U.N. Operation in Somalia) ground patrol failed to fiod any perpetrators," said Maj. Budge.

The attack could be a taste of coming chaos in the capital as thousands of American, Italian and German forces withdraw from Somalia ahead of a March 31 deadline and armed militias take over the lawless streets once more.

Italy moved it troops north from the Somali capital last July after a furious row with the U.N. and the United States

the government pledged army protection, but oilmen say it is

Western security men, for-mer soldiers hired by the oil

companies to combat the

attacks, said the Shabwa raid

bore all the hallmarks of hav-

ing been planned and carried

out hy trained military per-

President Ali Abdullah

Saleh has linked the recent

kidnapping of oil company em-

ployees with his political feud

with his main rival, Vice-Presi-

He said in a recent inter-

view: "This comes in a series of

actions to tarnish the image of

Yemen and we know who's

behind these subversive inci-

But the oilmen suspect the

attacks are instigated from out-

side, arguing that the tribes-

men themselves would, like

the country, lose economically

the oil companies pull out.

In May 1992 and August

1993. Saudi Arabia warned

Hunt, France's ELF-Aquitaine

and four other Western oil

companies to stop operations

Riyadh said they were tres-

passing on its land, tantamount

to a Saudi claim to a large

swathe of what has long been

considered Yemeni territory.

Some companies scaled back

their operations, but explora-

oon continued and new finds

dent Mitterrand was sufficient-

ly alarmed to fly to Saudi Ara-

bia to meet King Fahd in Octo-

ber while en route to a confer-

ence on Mauritius to discuss

the threat to French oil in-

After the Total attack, Presi-

in border areas.

dent Ali Salem Beedh.

ineffective.

sonnel.

Oilmen in Yemen face dangers necessary precautions." knocked out the camp's com-He said the precautions inmunications centre and a heli-Total halted operations until

> The threat has upset Jewish residents, even though Rabbi Jajati called it "no more than

the Associated Press they were afraid of the threat. Some who already had obtained exit visas but had preferred to remain in Syria, said they were now eager to leave the country as soon as possible.

organisations in the United States, the pamphlet described the Jews as criminals and in an apparent reference to the attack by a Jewish extremist on a mosque in Hehron Feh. 25. called Jews cowards who "shoot hullets on the victims

leaflet ended with the declaration that "the blood of all Jews living in Syria will be spilled starting on Sunday, the 13th of March 1994."

The threat came the week after some 25 Syrian Jews who had emigrated to the United States came back to Syria. reportedly after failing to adapt to the new environment.

Rabbi Jajati said Friday that the remaining 850 to 950 Sytian Jews in the country had recently been given exit visas. Jewish merchant Jacuh Bekae said he was the first to alert the Syrian authorities about the threat, and he said they had taken the "necessary security precautions to protect the lives of the Jewish citizens.

Earlier Friday, authorities



Syrian Jews uneasy

DAMASCUS (AP) -- The Syrian authorities have intensified security to protect the country's small Jewish community following a death threat, a senior Jewish cleric said Friday.

Deputy Chief Rabbi Yousef Jajati said the threat that Jewish blood would be spilled was contained in a pamphlet secretly placed in Jewish houses and

A U.S. State Department announcement Thursday said department officials had checked with the U.S. embassy in Damascus and were informed Syrian authorities were aware of the threat and "had taken actions to protect Jewish residents.

Rahhi Jajati, who is one of the Jewish leaders that function as links between the community and the government. said the authorities had "shown great concern over the threat and have taken all

cluded intensified security pat-rols and guards around the community's synagogues. houses, shops and factories.

Many Jewish youngsters told

According to the Jewish

when they are praying." Threatening revenge, the

"Despite our worry and unease as a result of the threat, I have decided to stay here, in my homelown." he said.

Palestinian anger grows despite Israeli threats

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Marwan Jawarish aged three and dressed as a commando - aimed his toy submachinegun at a group of Israeli soldiers and toddled towards them.

Embarrassed, they walked from the Palestinian boy. This is the first Israeli with-

drawal," one Arah man shouted to the sound of rare laughter and cheers on a main East Jerusalem street on

The taunt was just one sign of rising tensions and militancy following the Hehron massacre of ahout 60 praying Palestinians by a Jewish settler with an automatic rifle.

The Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace deal signed last September has been losing ground fast, a casualty of the mosque killings and frustrations at the delay in implementing an Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

Marwan's father, Khaled. bought the boy his commando suit and took him five months ago to street celehrations over the peace deal. He now thinks it could he dead.

"We did not think at the lime that there would be any massacre," Khaled said. "I am afraid the peace process is over. We are being shot like birds."
Several Palestinians in the

small crowd cheered and some jeered at the soldiers, who walked away to avoid being filmed by television cameras confronting a boy.

The only alternative is an Islamic state. Only Islam can hring a solution (to the Palestinian problem)," said a 20-yearold youth who declined to be identified.

Ahout 10 people voicing opposition to the peace process drowned out a lone Palestinian

who spoke a few metres away

in its favour outside the walls of the Old City. Despite the initialling in Cairo last month of another agreement on security arrangements, the September peace deal remains ink on paper. No date set for the start of the Israeli pullout.

The mosque massacre a week ago has led to PLO demands for international protection for Palestinians in the occupied territories.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, who had agreed to put off discussions on the fate of some 140 Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, is under pressure from his people to raise the subject now.

The nearly two million Palestinians in the occupied territories, most under army curfews since the massacre, also want the army to start leaving soon.

AP finds 30 killed

Thirty Palestinians were shot to death hy Jewisb settler Baruch Goldstein in the Hebroo mosque massacre, rather than the higher figures reported earlier, according to an Associated Press check conducted Saturday.

The figure was compiled by speaking with the relatives of all people initially reported dead by hospital officials in the coofusion right after the Feb. 25 bloodbath.

It emerged that several people registered as dead had only been wounded. One victim was counted twice, under two different names, and one man who was killed a day after the massacre was counted as a victim of Goldstein.

However, it is still possible the fioal death toll coold change hecause Palestioians have said at least four massacre victims were buried without being taken to a hospital for certification of death.

Jewish settlers play cat-and-mouse with army in W. Bank

KFAR TAPUAH, occupied West Bank (AP) - When the army showed up ourside David Axelrod's froot door with an order banning him from Palestinian areas and demanded his gun, he clambered out the bedroom window. Uzi in

The 27-year-old native of Queens, New York, and other fugitive militants are finding it easy to dodge arrest and even pop up on clandestine TV interviews, mocking the governmeot's efforts to round them

"If they want to jail me let them find me. The same goes for my guns. Let them sweat it out and find them," said Axelrod, a leader of the Kahane Lives movement, one of the offshoots of the extremist Kach movement that calls for transferring Arabs out of the occupied Jerritories

The Palestinians have demanded that the settlers be disarmed before they will return to the peace talks, condemning the steps taken to date as insufficient. The U.S. has encouraged steps against the Disarming settlers will be a

difficult, if not impossible task. Weapons are common here. Nearly all Israeli men serve in the military reserves, bitchbiking or riding public buses to and from their units with their goveroment-issued guos in hand. Illegal weapons are also readily available.

The government does not want to disarm settlers completely, leaving them vulnerable to attacks. So it has limited itself to trying to confiscate the government-issued automatic weapons. In the Hehron massacre Feb. 25, Dr. Baruch Goldstein, an American Kiryat Arba settler, used his army weapon to gun down at least 60 Palestinians in a mosque.

The Israeli cabinet decided last Sunday to use emergency powers to arrest the leaders of militant Jewish organisations and confiscate weapons. It also empowered the army to bar some Jewish settlers from en-

tering Arab areas. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rahin pledged to study whether it was possible to outlaw the Kach organisation and its various offshoots, bot said legal difficulties had to be examined.

The army announced that in addition to six arrest warrants. orders were issued to take automatic weapons away from 18 other settlers. Only two settlers have been detained, and army spokesmen said other figures were not avail-

Both police and army officers complained about a lack of coordinatioo among the secur-

caused heavy damage to shops,

homes and government build-

ings, followed the detention of

the members of parliament io

Aokara after the assembly

stripped them of their immun-

ity forces, suggesting this was one reason for the delay.

Israel has held hundreds of Palestinians without trial doring the course of the uprising against occupation which began in 1987.

Ehud Sprinzak. a Hebrew University of Jerusalem political scientist who specialises in right-wing extremists, said Rabin's government was caught off guard by the attack. adding that the cat-and-mouse game made the government's crackdown "look like a joke."

Uri Dromi, director of the government press office, said the police had been tied up trying to control unrest, but would carry out the new orders

within days.
"We will get those people and the arms." he told the Associated Press.

At Tapuah, Axelrod said about 20 army and police officers showed up around 10:30 p.m. (2030 GMT) Thursday and one shot into air io from of his house.

"They wanted people to think it was a terrorist attack so they would come out with their weapons. Then they started banging on doors," said Axelrod, who got his Uzi from the Israeli army, where he is a first sergeant in the reserves.

Axelrod said after he went out a window he stayed in the settlement until the convoy of four military vehicles departed. The army left behind letters for four Tapuah residents linked to the movement Kahane Lives, barring them from travelling to the Hebron area, including the settlement Kiryat Arba.

"I have no intention of avoiding the place, especially since Kiryat, Arba has the grave of an important Jew. I visit there regularly to pray at the grave of Baruch Goldstein," said Axelrod.

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While he spoke Friday the only army visible was the soldier a few hundred metres away guarding the gate of this settlemeot, about 12 kilometres south of the West Bank city of Nahlus.

Other fugitives have shown up on television. Barnch Marzel, the leader of Kach, toldstate-run Israel Television: "All the wanted are in contact with earh other. They are enjoying themselves. This is a holiday.'

Settlers argue that if the me-asures had been taken against the militants before the Hehroo attack, it could still have taken place since Goldstein had dropped his political work.

"They really have no idea who is who here," said Reuven Ben-David, a Tapuah resident who left his native Queens 10 years ago. "It's like the end of the movie Casablanca when the guy says round up the usual

Turkish authorities free 2 pro-Kurdish MPs

ANKARA (AP) - Turkish authorities released two of the eight deputies Friday who were detained after the parliament lifted their immunity for allegedly promoting separat-

A public prosecutor in the western town of Bandirma released Hasan Mezarci, a Muslim fundamentalist deputy from Istanbul after his pre-trial testimony, the Anatolia agency

He caused a public furor for introducing a bill to honour the artempted assassins of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the founder of the modern secular Turkish

freed Selim Sadak, a deputy

GUIDE AND

664171/4

from the southeastern Sirnak province, after his pre-trial testimony in the western city of Kocaeli, the agency said.

Mr. Sadak and five other deputies are from the pro-Kurdish Democracy Party. which is believed to bave ties with a Kurdish rebel group, the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK). The 10-year guerrilla war for autonomy in southeastern Tur-

11,000 lives. Clashes rocked the southeastern Turkish town of Cizre, a hastion of support for Kurdish rebels and mine civilians

and one policeman were killed

in the fighting, residents said.

The overnight battles, which

CALENDAR

Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

Royel Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

ARRIVALS

key has claimed more than

ity from prosecution. Orhan Dogan, one of them, is from Cizre, all face charges crimes against the state, which carry the death penalty.

"The shooting started about eight o'clock yesterday evening and went on until the morning. We have only just begun to go out now," one resident contacted by telephone said in the afternoon. "Everything is

wrecked, it's a real mess. Local journalists said the fighting had begun with a PKK attack to which the security

forces responded with heavy gunfire, but information was sketchy and it was not clear exactly how the civilians had been killed.

Residents in Cizre, which is near the Syrian border, said shops and schools stayed shut all day as police in armoured cars prowled the streets, conducted searches and detained about 100 people in the town. known as a hastion of support for the PKK. A statement from the

emergency rule governor's office in Divarbakir said security forces had killed seven PKK rebels in clashes elsewhere in the southeast. It did not mention Cizre.

Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

Tel: 773111-19 PRIXIRAMME TWO

Documentary: "Out Of The Past" ... Island Son PRAYER TIMES Fair (Suffrisc) Duha Dhubr 11:47 CHURCHES

Anglican 628543. Church Tel. 630851, Tel Catholic Church 7757nl St. Ephralm Church Tel 771751. 652526. Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Min/Max. temp. Aqaba 14 / 22 **USEFUL TELEPHONE** NUMBERS

JORDAN TIMES DAILY Dr. Kbalil Ibali . Firas pharmacy Ferdows pharmacy Al Asema pharmacy vairoukh pharmacy 623673 Al Salam pharmacy Yacoub pharmacy ... Shrocisani pharmacy 644945 637660

Nairouth pharmacy Najib pharmacy 62367. Dr. Mohammad Khalili 275099 Alguds pharmacy **EMERGENCIES**

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department Civil Defence Immediate

Highway Police Traffic Police 630321 Hesel Complaints
Price Complaints Water and Sewerage 787111 Telephone Information (directory assistance) Central Amman Telephone Abdali Telephone Repairs 623101 Jordan Television Jordan Electricity Authority

Queen Alia Intl. Airport. 08-53200 HOSPITALS

AMMAN: Hussen Medical Centre 813813/32 Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn.... 64281/6 Akileh Maternity, J. Amn.... 642441/2

. 669t31 . 845845 Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641644 Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafich 775111/26 Oucen Alia Hospital .. 602240/50 Amai Hospital ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323 Zarqa National Hospital ... (09)900560 the Sina Hospital Al Hikma Modern Hospital (02)27555 Greek Catholic Hospital Ibu Al Nafees Hospital ... Princess Haye Hospital (03)314111 FOR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALIA

18-35 INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RI) information department at the Oucen Alia International

.... Aqaba (RJ) Damascuss (RJ) Dubai, Abu Dhabi (R.D. t0:28 Bahrain, Doha (RJ) .. Paris. Brussels (RJ) 17:25London (RJ) Madrid, Geneva (RJ) Athens (RJ) Frankfort (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2) ... Damasous (AZ)

DEPARTURES Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1) 85-30 96:00 96:35 Frankfurt (RJ) 10:50 tt:90 Vicana (RJ) ----- Athens (R.)

Riyadh (RJ) Jeddah (RJ) Other Filghts (Terminal 2) Vienna (OS) Dubai (AZ Aden (IY)
Bucharest (RO) HUAZ RAILWAY TRAIN 8:00 a.m. every Monday 5:00 p.m. every Monday

---...7:30 a.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES Upper/lower price in fils per kg-..... 5507 650 Cucumbers (large) Cucumbers (small) 140 / 80 2500 / 80 900/800 220/120 Marrow (large) 140 / 80 Marrow (so Olives (green) 700/500 350 / 300 Onion (green) Pepper (hor) 240 / 180 400 / 240 Pepper (sweet) 400 / 240 150V t00

JORDAN TELEVISION Feature film: "L' Autre News in French News in Hebrew News in Arabic You Bet Your Life

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swelfish. Tel 810740 ablies of God Church, Tel. St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590. Church of the Annunciation Church 657440.

De la Saile Church Tcl. 661757

Church Tel: 622360

Tel Orthodox Church Tel

gregation Tel. 684195 The Latter-Day Saints Tel 654932 Church of Nazarene Tcl.675001. The Evangelical Local Church in Am-Tel. 811295 WEATHER

NIGHT DUTY

five-day work week

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers Saturday is reconsidering a five-day work week for government offices, according to a statemeot following a regular Cahinet session Saturday.

The statement said the ministers will examine the effects of changing to an eight-hour work day with two days off at a later session.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan reported to the cabinet on the outcome of last week's visit to Jordan by Greek Foreign Minister Karolous Papoulias who is also the current president of the European Union

During the Greek envoy's brief visit, said Mr. Al Hassan, he discussed EU-Jordanian relations and agreement was reached on providing Jordan with credit facilities amounting to 124 million European Currency Uoits (ECU).

Mr. Al Hassan reported that

NEWS IN BRIEF

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein delegated Jordan's Amhassador to Yemen Fayez Al Rabie to offer his condolences to Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh over the

death of Abdullah Al Sallal, former president of Yemen, who

died early Saturday. Mr. Sallal was one of the Yemeni leaders

who attended the Feh. 20 signing of the reconciliation and

reform agreement in Amman. King Hussein also sent a cable

to Ali Abdullah Al Sallal, condoling bim over the death of his

AMMAN (Petra) - Chief Islamic Justice Izzeddin Al Khatib

Al Tamimi Saturday called oo the public to watch for the new moon of Sahwal Friday evening, March 11. The new moon marks the start of Eid Al Fitr, eoding the boly month of

Ramadan. The chief justice requested those who spot the new

moon to report to the Sharia court and take oo oath to that

AMMAN (Petra) - Gbassan Mifleh, Ministry of tourism

secretary general, Saturday met with an Italian tourist group which include nine writers invited to visit Jordan's attractions.

Italian Ambassador to Jordan Romualdo Bettini, who was

present at the meeting, said Jordan is a major attraction in the Middle East for Italian tourists in view of its security and

political stability. The ministry said that the 50-member group

represents the first of several tourist groups which will be

visiting Jordan on a weekly basis in cooperation with an Italian

AMMAN (Petra) - The Jordan Exports Development and

Commercial Centres Corporation (JEDCO) Saturday said

that it has completed three studies on the possibilities of

marketing national products in Ghana, Guinea and Nigeria. It

said currently JEDCO teams are conducting four studies on

markets in Islamic states of Central Asia with the aim of

AMMAN (Petra) — The Civil Defence Department (CDD)

Saturday said it responded to 1,83g emergencies in February.

It said that 50 people died in February as a result of these

AMMAN (Petra) - The Lands and Survey Department Saturday announced it collected JD3,767,698 during Fehruary, registering 10 per cent less than fees collected in January.

Department Director Ali Gharaibeh said that Fehruary's

collections, however, registered a four per cent increase over

fees collected in Fehruary 1993. The fees are collected oo real

JEDCO completes 3 market studies

introducing Jordanian products in these countries.

CDD deals with 1,838 emergencies

Lands department collects JD3.7m

Public asked to watch for new moon

50 Italian tourists visit ministry

tourist and travel agency.

estate transactions.

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King condoles Yemeni leader

Mr. Papoolias promised that Greece would study a Jordaoian request to allow Royal Jordanian (RJ) landing rights at Salonic airport io northern Greece and for increased trade cooperation between the two

Also at Saturday's session, the ministers endorsed the 1994 general budgets of semi-independent institutions which include the Jordan Electricity Authority, the Jordanian Ports Corporation and the Housing and Urban Development Department, the Free Zones Corporation, the Civil Service Consumer Corporation, the Post Office Savings Fund, the Institute of Public Administration, the Water Authority, the Aqaba Railway Corporation, the Jordan Investment Corporation, the Public Transport Corporation, the Vocational Training Corporatioo, the Aqaba Region Authority, the Hijaz Railway, the Jordan Academy of Arabic and the National Aid Fund.

reach JD 700,000 in Amman alone

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The national committee charged with fundraising for the victims of the Hebron massacre bas collected more than JD 700,000 in the Greater Amman area alooe, according to Ahmad Helayel, the committee's official spokesperson.

Dr. Helayel said the figure is expected to rise further when collections from governorates have been counted.

Chief Islamic Justice and Committee Chairman Izzeddine Al Khatih Al Tamimi will chair a meeting of heads of fund-raising sub-committees in Amman and the governorates

to assess the situation, Dr. Helayel said.

Dr. Helayel told the Jordan Times the monies will be distributed via a special committee formed in the occupied West Bank town of Hebron made up of charitable societies and the Hebron municipality as well as the committee in Jordao.

Dr. Helayel, who is also Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs secretary general, said Israel has begun to erect a fence oo Al Buraq wall within the Al Agsa Mosque compound in Jerusalem. He said any tampering with the status quo in the holy places consti-tutes a flag ant violation of the sanctity of the holy mosque, considered the third holiest

Dr. Helayel described the fencing measure as part of Israel's drive to Judaise the city and overtake the Islamic holy

Jordan plans to bring this development to the attention of the concerned international

forums, he said.

As part of Israel's drive to interfere in Muslim religious rights, added Dr. Helayel, the occupation authorities Friday barred Muslims from entering the Aqsa Mosque and instead allowed Israeli settlers into the compound. He said the Israelis also barred Muslims from performing prayers at Al Ibrahimi Mosque but allowed Jewish

, Cabinet reconsidering | Donations to Hebron massacre victims | International forum to discuss civil defence work and change

AMMAN (Petra) - An international conference on civil defence wil be beld in Amman early next mooth under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, according to Civil Defence Department (CDD) Director Afif Al Ghoul.

Several issues related to social, political and technological changes and developments and their impact on civil defence work will be discussed by the participants, said Gen. Ghoul. He said special attention will he giveo to environmental protection, dangers faced hy civilian populations and measures

to deal with major migrations. During the conference an ioternational exhibition of modern technological inventions used in civil defence op-erations will be organised, he



added. Gen. Ghoul said major international companies and loc-

al firms are expected to partici-

pate in the three-day exhibi-

The conference is organised hy the Geneva-based International Civil Defence Organisa-tion (ICDO) which was established in 1931 to intensify and coordinate the development and improvement of means and techniques to prevent and reduce the consequences of natural disasters in times of peace and the use of weapons in times of conflict.

The meeting, scheduled to start on April 3, will be arrended by about 300 delegates from 45 rations, said Gen. Ghoul.

The confere e, the fifth such gathering id the first to be held in a M. Ile East country, is to be tollowed by a two-day general assembly meeting, Gen. G toul added.

Blast convict's father questions lawyer's about-face

By P.V. Vivekanand Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The devastated father of a Jordanian convicted in the New York World Trade Centre bombing is agonising over why his son's lawyer did a volte-face in his summation, which be believes led to the conviction of oot only his son hut also another three defendants.

Amin Salameb, father of Mohammad Salameh (26), who, along with three others. was found guilty by a jury in a New York court Friday, is also bitter that no Jordanian orgaoisation or individual stepped forward to help bim or advise him.

He said he had obtained a three-month-valid U.S. visa in September, but did not bave enough money to buy a ticket to New York to visit his son and see whether there was anything he could do to help establish his innocence.

Mr. Salameb, a retired army lieuteoant who hails from Bedia village in the West Bank, works for Amman Customs Clearing Agen-cy to provide for his family of II children younger to Mobammad and their mother with his army pension and a D 120 monthly salary.

"I did not leave a single known door unknocked," he told the Jordan Times. "But there was nobody who was willing to help, including those who call themselves human rights activists and experts in law."

"They had no interest in the case, and many appeared anxious oot to have anything to do with it," he said.

"My question to them is: "Isn't every accused entitled to a fair trial? And if so, was. my soo given a fair trial? Did anv Jordanian lawyer take the slightest interest to find ont whether the trial followed the due process of the law?

Mr. Salameh, 51, who fled his village along with his family in the 1967 war, believes that neither his son nor any of the other three is guilty, and that Israeli agents seeking to distort the image

AMMAN (J.T.) — Three

Islamist deputies have de-

scribed their differences with a

former member of the Islamic Action Front (IAF) and for-

mer member of the 11th Parlia-

ment as personal and baseless,

and attributed the conflict to

campaigning prior to the Nov.

Former Islamist Deputy

Ziad Abu Ghanimeh accused

three of his former IAF col-

leagues, Hamzeh Mansour,

Abdul Rahim Al Ekour and

Mohammad Oweidah, of slan-

der, defamation of character

and libel and filed a k-gal suit

Justice Minister Taher Hik-

mat addressed the Parliament

requesting legal procedures to

Respooding to Mr. Ahu



Mohammad Salameh

of Arabs and Muslims had a hand in the affair and entrapped the accused in the case.

"My instinct and conscience tells me there is moch more to the entire affair than we have been told," he said, adding that the summation of his soo's lawyer, Richard Precht, was the most damaging element that led to the guilty verdict.
"Throughout the trial, the

lawyer was very good and made a very good case of Mohammad's defence. But, for some unknown reasons, he took a complete turn in the last minute," said Mr. Salameh, who lives in Zarga.

"Perhaps be was coerced, pressured or forced into doing that," he said. "But it does not change the fact that my son and three Others now face life in prison."

He was referring to Mr. Precht's closing argument that Mohammad Salameh was an unwitting victim of another defendant who trapped him into taking part in the Feh. 26 explosion at the twin-towers. The blast killed six people and injured more than 1,000.

Describiog Ramzi Yousef. an accused who remains at large, as an "evil genius." Mr. Precht asserted that Mohammad Salameh was doped by Mr. Yousef. "Mohammad Salameh was terribly misled, terribly manipulated... hy a person who came into this country with a single mission, to destroy, American targets," Mr. Precht told the court on Feh.

Mr. Precht was the only

defence lawer who presented such an argument, which implied that there was a bomh plot and Mr. Salameh was part of it. All others maintained the total innocence of their clients and at least one of them accused Mr. Precht of undermining his client's

Mr. Salameh said his soo contacted him over the phone on Thursday, less than 24 hours before the verdict was announced.

"He sounded very confident that all would he acquit-ted," Mr. Salameh said. "He told me he would be with us bere in a few days."

"Even the lawyer, who had called me a few days earlier, told me the same thing. He said the charges were unfounded and onsubstanti-ated," said Mr. Salameh.

The ex-serviceman noted that Mohammad had filed a petitioo to the judge that Mr. Precbt's incriminatory summation did not represent his views and that the lawyer was oo looger his legal coun-

"But the court decided to accept the lawyer's argument that there was no change in his status as Mobammad's counsel," Mr. Salameb said.

"I don't know why (Precht) did such an injustice to my son, who always maintained his innocence and never told the lawyer anything of the nature that was presented to the court," said Amio Salameh.

"My limited knowledge of things tells me a lawyer is not supposed to invent things and present them in court on behalf of bis client," he said. "Where did he get the notion that Mohammad had any part, witting or otherwise, in the attack?

Mr. Salameh said his son, who has been in touch with the family over the phone from his prison, "always swore by God and assured me that he had nothing to do with the bombing and that he was never involved in any subversive plots.

"I brought up and educated my son, and I helieve

Cement factories to implement pollution reduction programme in response to King's urging

AMMAN (Petra) - The Jordan Cement Factories Com-pany (JCFC) is implementing a programme to drastically reduce the amount of pollution to the environment caused by falling cemeot dust and chimney smoke from its factories, JCFC Board Chairman Mohammad Saeed Abu Nowar announced Saturday.

Addressing a press conference at the company's bead office io Fuheis where the main JCFC factories are located. Mr. Abo Nowar said the company Thursday signed contracts with German and Danish firms to implement the programme beginning around mid-1994 and continuing throughont next year.

The programme, which will introduce improvements to the factories' ability to control and reduce the dust and smoke, is expected to cost a total of JD 32 million, and it will be implemented at the JCFC factories in Fuheis and Rashadieh in southern Jordan, said Mr. Abu

The equipment to be installed is designed to absorb the dust and smoke rising from the kilns, Mr. Abu Nowar explained.

When the factories were established in 1951, to prodoce 1,500 tonnes of cement daily, not much attention was given to the environment and no precautionary measures were taken to protect it and the local residents, Mr. Ahu Nowar

He said the current production is 5,700 tonnes per day, and there is an urgent need to

control the dust and smoke. Also addressing the press conference was Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Ahmad Akaileh who said the ministry followed the JCFC's studies and prepared a comprehensive report on the environment in Jordan taking into account all forms of pollution including the dust from the cement factories.

The minister said a law based on the National Envirooment Strategy will be passed very soon.

He said Saturday's press conference was held in response to a call by His Majesty King Hussein to correct the enviroomeotal hazards resulting from the JCFC's opera-

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- Art exhibition by artist Ghassan Ayasrah at the Royal Cultural
- ★ Exhibition by artist Shaker Al Girmi entitled "Studies in the Jordanian Environment" at the Phoenix Art Gallery for Art and Culture.
- ☆ Plastic art exhibition by several artists at the Royal Cultural ☆Exhibition of Jordanian products at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * Exhibition of works of art by the Arab Centre for Vocational Training at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ☆ Art exhibition by artist Jalal Ariqat at Ab'ad Art Gallery (10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. except Fridays). ☆ Art exhibition by several artists at the Alia Art Gallery (8:30)
- a.m.-2:30 p.m.). ☆ Exhibition of medical herbs at the Royal Cultural Centre. ≈ Book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre (7:00 p.m.-
- * Art exhibition by Jordanian artists at the Royal Cultural Centre (7:00 p.m.-midnight).
- ★ Wood carving exhibition by artist Samer Ousama at the French * "Permanent" exhibition of 54 Arab contemporary artists at
- Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman (Tel. 643251/2). Art exhibition by several Iraqi and Jordanian artists at Orfali Art Gallery (Tel. 826932).

☆ Film entitled "The Outlaw Josey Wales" at the American Center at 2:30 p.m. (135 minutes).

Ghanimeh's charges, the three depoties sent a memo to the House stating what they claim are the reasons behind the charges and refuting the allega-

facilitate their trial.

against them.

The deputies said that during the 1993 elections the claimant had attempted to win the support of Mr. Ekour and Mr. Oweidah. According to their memo, Mr. Abu Ghanimeh sent a letter to the IAF rejecting Mr. Mansour's right to run for elections in the Second District.

Abu Ghanimeh charges are baseless,

say three targetted Islamist deputies

The deputies said Mr. Ghanimeh claimed that Mr. Mansour failed to get the nomination in his own district of Sahah and therefore ran in Mr. Abu Ghanimeh's district. According to the memo, Mr.

Ahn Ghanimeh won only four votes of nomination from the IAF. The deputies said Mr. Abu Ghanimeh contested the IAF General Assembly's decision and sent a letter of protest to the LAF executive bureau. which in turn rejected his pro-

When he failed to influence the IAF's decisions, the memo continued, Mr. Abu Ghanimeh resorted to the press and started a defamation, libel and slander campaign against those whom be thought bad failed him.

Against this backdrop, the memo said, the IAF's executive bureao took a decision to expel Mr. Abn Ghanimeb from the IAF.

Earlier, the Muslim Brotherbood movement also expelled him from membership, the deputies' memo said. The memo said the three deputies refrained from responding to Mr. Abu Ghanimeh's provoca-



Ziad Abu Ghanimeh

tions, and stressed that his accusations are haseless and lack objectivity. The deputies welcomed the

motion to present the case to the House and to have it considered by the concerned judges. "This case aims only to settle previous personal accounts on the background of nomination for election and to provide material for the media with the aim of affecting our parliamentary performance," the deputies said.

The House, which had earlier referred the case to its Judiciary Committee, is this week expected to review the committee's report.

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empts the corporation from

the civil service regulations.

This means an improved and

compentive salary scale that

allowed the corporation to

employ creative and produc-

tive Jordanians who could

not be hired before, and pro-

vided for flexibility in impro-

ving the salaries of the ex-

isting productive staff. In

order to have financial inde-

pendence. JRTV has submit-

ted to the prime minister's office a draft bye-law, prop-

osing that the budget of the

corporation come from re-

venue of television tax (JD 1

per month) in addition to

income from advertisement

Many of the present mem-

bers of the staff are highly

professional and can success

fully perform all duties re-

quired from a national broad-

casting corporation. Staff

training should be highly

emphasised. A training plan

is heing currently im-

plemented to improve the

professional standards of the

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The existing JRTV law gives the minister of informa-

tion the authority to formu-late policies of the corpora-

tion. With our democratic

process proceeding as well as

changed in order to

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Promise behind the scene

IT MICHT still be too close to call, but all indicato's point to the inevitability of providing some kir i of international protection to the Palestinians un ler Israeli occupation and the elevation of the issue of settlements on the Palestine Liberation Organis tion (PLO)-Israeli peace agenda. PLO negotiator Nabil Shaath had a satisfactory session with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Washington Friday at the conclusion of which he stated that the U.S. now backs the proposal to place armed international observers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. "We are satisfied that we have the serious concerns of the United States reflected by the Secretary and State Department people and the President," Shaath said at the end of his encounter with Christopher.

U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali has also been busy floating ideas on how to put in place an effective international regime in a hid to defuse the crisis that erupted in the aftermath of the Hebron massacre. Ghali has been working behind the scenes to lobby for the idea ever since the massacre made it urgent and necessary.

Meanwhile the European Community (EC) is moving in the same direction, as Greek Foreign Minister Carolos Papoulias, whose country holds the European Union (EU) presidency, confirmed during his recent visit to the region that Europeans are very sympathetic to the proposal of providing

security to Palestinians. French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe has also urged the upgrading of the issue of Israeli settlements from its current position on the peace agenda. "We believe the issue of the settlements and of their eventual regrouping should be the object of negotiations between the parties," Juppe said in Paris on Friday at the conclusion of his meeting with

Under the Oslo accord, the future of the settlements would come to the negotiating table only three years after Palestinian self-rule begins in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

PLO top negotiator Yasser Abed Rahbo.

The stage appears to be set, therefore, to accommodate the Palestinians' reasonable and legitimate demands for greater security for their people as well as for urgent consideration of the entire settlements file. It would prove to be a positive development indeed should the projected U.N. Security Council resolution on the Hebron massacre incorporate language to that effect. irrespective of the earlier PLO-Israeli agreement to shelve the Israeli settlements issue till three years later, there are now new realities on the ground to press ahead with an immediate consideration and resolution of this timebomh. The mutual interests of Israel and the PLO stand to benefit from an expeditious resolution of the settlements problem since it stands to derail everything else agreed upon between the parties, if it is allowed to fester and simmer for an additional three years. Besides, the Israeli colonies in Palestinian territories go to the heart of the Palestinian-Israeli peace deal and the sooner they are addressed the better it would be for

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

NO ONE can imagine how the peace process can be conducted against a background of terrorism and massacres committed against the Palestinian people, said Al Dustour daily Saturday. The Palestinians are continually subjected to injustice, repression and infinidation in their own land and have no hope for escaping the genocide or dreaming of becoming independent as long as the occupation lasts and the acts of terrorism continue, the paper said. The ugly crime at Al Ibrahim: Mosque has exposed the real nature of the Israelis and rendered false their claim of seeking peace with the Palestinians and the Arabs at large, said the paper. There is no doubt that the Palestinian people are in desperate need for protection and guarantees for their security in the face of their Zionist terrorists, the enenties of human rights and peace, continued the paper. As for the peace process, it will fall short of achieving the aspired peace despite the Arab parties' readiness to pursue all efforts towards that objective simply because all the endeavours are thwarted by Israel through its atrocities and procrastinations at the negotiating table, added the paper. Only when the United Nations and the world community provide the essential elements for peace and guarantee Israel's abidance by U.N. principles, said the paper. can the Arabs believe that the way for peace is open. Otherwise, peace talks under the present conditions are like building castles in the air.

SALEH AL OALLAB, a columnist in At Dustour, condemned the reported attacks on foreign tourists visiting the Kingdom and called for drastic action to deter further attacks. Assaults on the tourists after every mishap and massacre that occurs in the occupied Arab lands does not require mere statements of regret but rather concerted action on the part of all the concerned authorities to prevent further attacks on the tourists who act innocent citizens and have no relation what so ever with the Israe actions, said the writer.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fabed Fanek

Arabs not Middle Easterners!

ARAB INTELLECTUALS are fond of picking up words and idioms thrown on them, from time to time, by the West. We sometimes stick to the usage of those words and idioms more than those who coined them. One of the major examples that come to mind is the 'new world order," which was invented by the speech writers of the ex-president of the United States George Bush. Arab intellectuals picked up the term, which became a household term and an integral part of their language, even though America itself abandoned the term, which was never used by its new President Bill Clinton, who deleted "the new world order" from his dictionary.

The resounding fall of the old world order of hipolarity does not necessarily mean more than the introduction of a new transitional and liquid period, when all rules and regulations are temporarily suspended, ignored, distorted or made onesided, and replaced by the law of jungle, until such time when the international society is able to produce, and agree on, a real new and durable world order.

Something similar is happening in regard to the new term "Middle East market" or "Middle East order." Both terms were invented by Western think-tanks, based in Washington. Boston, or Tel-Aviv. Our politicians and intellectuals became busy with these terms although, so far, there is no project or draft of Middle East market presented to any Arab country to

As a matter of fact, the Middle East was never defined for the purposes of the so called Middle East market. It can be as big as the whole Arab World plus Turkey and Iran, or as small as Israel, Palestine and Jordan (Penalux), or anything in

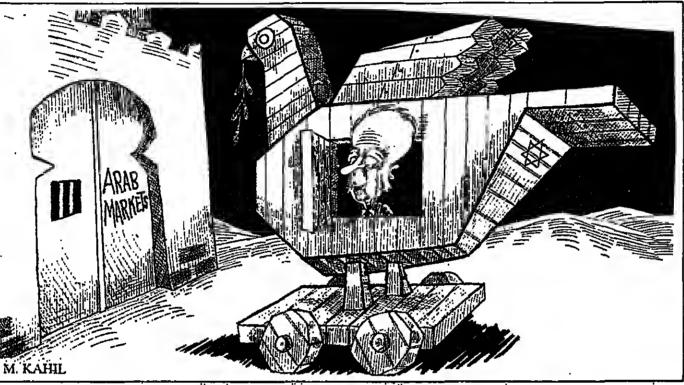
At the outset, we should distinguish between a Middle East market and a Middle East order. The "market" in this context has a commercial or economic nature. It may mean economic

integration, or removing barriers in the form of a free trade area, a customs union or a common market. The "order" on the other hand means common political and security institutions, such as transforming the Arab League into a Middle East league. The common factor among all versions of Middle East markets and orders is the inclusion of Israel and the removal of Arah identity to be replaced by a Middle East identity. We shall no more call ourselves Arabs but Middle Easterners! The relations between one Arab country and another will be the same like the relation between an Arah country and Israel, or, for that matter, Iran and Turkey. It seems that Israel is not yet sure if it wants a Middle East

market because it is not willing to open up its market for Arab labour, capital or less expensive goods. It definitely would like to see a Middle East order and become an integral part of the Middle East from a political and security viewpoints. In that case — a Middle East market can be taken for granted if and

Israel, during the last 46 years, existed in the Middle East only from a geographical point of view. Politically, it is situated in America as the 51st state, while commercially and culturally it can be found somewhere in the Atlantic Ocean between Europe and the United States.

The economic and political normalisation of relations, that may take place at the state level, subsequent to a peaceful settlement, should not necessarily mean the establishment of a Middle East market or a Middle East order, unless such ser-ups were imposed on the Arab side, to give Israel a special leading role, exceeding its status as a normal country, such as Turkey or Cyprus, which have normal and peaceful relations with all Arab countries, without having to be included in the Arab political or security order, or admitted in the Arab



Serbs remain tough foe despite losses

The Associated Press

PALE. Bosnia-Herzegovina - Newfound NATO resolve combined with manpower and political problems are eroding the dominance Bosnian Serhs enjoyed in 23 months of war. But they remain a potent force the Bosnian army cannot defeut.

Without a negotiated solution, the war may turn into a stalemate with relatively stable. World War 1-style front lines.

"The strategic initiative has been slipping from the Serbs' hands for some time now," said Milos Vasic, a Belgrade defence expert. "But the withdrawal of their guns from around Sarajevo under the threat of NATO bombing has publicly humiliated them, and forced them on the detensive for the first

Bosnian Serbs backed down and removed their guns when faced with the threat of

Although they denied that the planes shot down by U.S. F-16s on Monday were theirs. the incident was a clear signal to the Bosnian Serbs that they will have to be careful using their air power in the

By Deborah Zabarenko

Reuter

WASHINGTON — For a

man who wanted to be Amer-

ica's domestic policy presi-

dent. Bill Clinton has faced a

fistful of foreign crises, and

February has been one of the

cruelest months on this score.

Most recently, the mas-sacre of over 60 Palestinians

by a Jew at a mosque on the

West Bank on Friday has

threatened to derail the U.S.-

sponsored Middle East peace

In addition, February has

- A touch-and-go cease-fire in Bosnia following a

U.S. led NATO threat to

launch air strikes followed by

a shooting incident involving

U.S. planes over Bosnia

The arrest of a high-

ranking moie at the Central

Intelligence Agency and fears that he may have shared

damaging information with

- Balkiness from North

Monday morning

the Russians

also seen:

especially helicopters have been a vital part of the Bosnian Serbs' military operations. The helicopters have ferried men and material. evacuated the wounded and been used as gunships.

All of that has been a hig boost against the Busnian army, which has an advantage in infantry but virtually no aircraft or aircraft dc-

During the first year of war, Bosnian Serbs, equipped by the Yugoslav army and commanded by Ratko Mladic, one of its most aggressive generals. steadily expanded the area

under their control. Armed with 800 tanks and armoured personnel carriers and 1,300 artillery pieces. they brushed aside the lightly armed Bosnian government police units that faced them.

But as the territory under their occupation increased to the present 70 per cent, the main weakness of the Bosnian Serhs hecame increasingly apparent: their relatively constricted manpower pool has never allowed them to put more than 80,000 soldiers in the field.

Those soldiers must both garrison the territory they

line, Mr. Vasic said.

In contrast, the newly created army of the Muslim-led Bosnian government, though shackled by a lack of weapons, has vastly impraved its capabilities, developing into an efficient light infantry force.

Its main weakness remains the lack of adequate fire support for the troops. Numbering about 150,000 men, the government side has 15 times less heavy weaponry than the

Recent battlefield reverses have demonstrated to Serb commanders that their muchvaunted superiority in heavy assure military victory.

"If the Muslims had the quantity of weapons we have. they would have kicked us out of Bosnia long ago," said Djoko Vukic, a Serb military policeman serving on the front near Olovo, in central Bosnia. Serb military policeman serving on the front near Olovo. in central Bosnia.

A major offensive against Olovo, ambitiously conceived to surround the govemment-held industrial centre of Tuzla in northeastern Bosnia, petered out in January after 45 days with heavy

Even the presence of Yugoslav army special forces could not shake government defences.

Another development worrying Serb military leaders is the possibility that the Bosnian Croats, whose 30,000 men have been fighting against the government side for the past year, could forge an alliance with the government forces.

The Croats, who entered the war on the government, side but later turned against their allies, are negotiating with the Muslim-led government on an alliance and a possible confederation.

ti the talks are success, Croat forces might rejain the government forces in fighting the Serbs.

Despite this, the Bosnian Serb military remains capable of keeping up the pressure on the Sarajevo government to accept a peace accord that would leave the Serbs in possession of much of what they have conquered.

They apparently have redeployed weaponry removed from around Sarajevo, and are likely to remain particuand lightly defeuded Muslim

Foreign crisis for 'domestic policy' president

Korea in the face of repeated demands for international inspection of nuclear sites

 A U.S. visit by Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams. which strained Washington's 'special relationship' with'

Former defence secretary Dick Cheney called Mr. Clinton's foreign policy "naive" and "soft," and chortled a bit about Mr. Clinton's intention to focus on domestic affairs.

"Given what's going on inthe Middle East and in Russia and in Bosnia and in Korea... President Clinton doesn't bave the luxury that he thought he had when he came to office, that he could

ignore toreign policy issues or put them on the back hurner," Mr. Chency said Sunday on NBC's "Meet the

Press" programme. Plainly, that was what Mr. Clinton had in mind during his 1992 campaign, when bis aides took as their motto the phrase: "It's the economy, stupid" and they did not mean the world economy. But if Mr. Clinton won the White House by focusing on

domestic policies, he is being forced to focus on foreign affairs every time a new crisis In the case of the West

Bank Massacre, Mr. Clinton appeared in the White House briefing room within hours of

Friday's attack to call for renewed, continuous negotia-tions towards a Middle East His comments made even-

ing news broadcasts and front pages of newspapers across the United States. But two days later, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon cut short peace talks with Israel. A U.S. official said this

was a . micrary cooling-off period 24... not a permanent breakdown, but Israel was disappointed by the Arab decision.

At the same time, Washington peace talks between Bosnian Muslims and Croats continued Sunday with some progress but no breakthroughs.

And Capitol Hill was alive with calls for cuts in aid to Russia in the wake of the CIA spy scandal and slow progress towards economic reforms.

Even Britain, for so long a rock-solid U.S. ally, is drawing Mr. Clinton's personal

National or government broadcasting? governments, Jordan Radio

By Radi Alkhas

THE RECENT debate onthe role of the official media. following His Majesty the King's remarks to members of Parliament at an Iftar banquet, has highlighted the need for change. But what kind of change must be effected and how can it be A national broadcasting

concept has to be based on accuracy, objectivity, reliability and the pursuit of truth in disseminating information. It should cover issues with honesty, fairness and impartiality in all matters in the public domain. The view held by the majority has to be reflected, even if this majority is mostly silent. Minority views have to be respected as such, even if they are loud and aggressive. That means suitable propor-tion of transmission time has to be allocated to both par-

A commitment of this kind requires professional integrity, avoiding self-centred attitudes and personal obsessions with particular ideolo-gies or prejudices.

In order to perform such a role, national broadcasting

 Be politically and financially independent. - Have a dynamic man-

agement in the context of a growing and aggressive competition - Adapt strategies that correspond to the rapid

evolution of the political, social and economic environment, and increase creative productivity. The above is not farfetched and is not difficult to achieve, taking into consideration the political will and

the progressive democratic

process in Jordan. In the past

few years, with the blessing

and support of His Majesty

the King and the successive

We are not far from a national broadcasting system if we can change our perceptions of the past, and accept and respect a responsible dialogue among people with different views.

poration.

The writer is director general of Jordan Radio & Television Cor-

LETTERS

Waiting for Columbus!

To the Editor:

THE WORLD recently celebrated the 500th anniversary of Columbus's discovery of the New World. Although this discovery brought untold riches, it brought, in its wake, innumerable tragedies and hardships for the Muslims and Jews

How ironic, that now, just over 500 years later, as the world stands on the verge of another discovery, the new world order, the same tragedies and hardships are replaying themselves all over the globe; in Bosnia where a Christian Slav is killing another Muslim Slav, in Israel and Palestine where a Semite is killing another Semite, in Afghanistan where a Muslim is killing another Muslim and in Ireland where a Christian is killing another Christian.

The Muslims, Jews, Christians, and what not of God's creatures, look up to the United States for guidance and leadership. They are aware of what is happening to them, but are unable to remedy the "why" of what is happening. To them, the USA is not only the only military super-power, it is the super moral leader of the world.

Five bundred years ago Columbus discovered the New World. Five hundred years later, the world is still waiting for another Columbus to discover the new world order. The U.S. president is the right man, at the right time and at

the right place to be that Columbus.

Sincerely Ludwig W. Tamari Potomac, Maryland the United States.

A'bewildering' decision

To the Editor:

I FIND the fact that Jordan may choose not to show the film Schindler's List because it may "show sympathy for the Jews," and because people cannot be expected to show such sympathy in the wake of the Hebron massacre (Jordan Times, March 3-4), to be sad and bewildering. Such a decision would miss one of that of most valuable

essons we can possibly learn from such a tragedy as Hebron's. Until the lessons of the past are learned, they are destined to be repeated over and again.

One of the most important reasons for showing films such as Schindler's List is that we should never forget the horror and calculated intent of the holocaust. Films such as Schindler's List are, first and foremost, testimony to the inhumanity of man, wherever it occurs and whoever is the victim; be it the Jews of Europe, the Muslims of Bosnia or the Palestinians under occupation.

It is because this inhumanity is still with us today that it is not only desirable but essential that Schindler's List be shown

> Mark Power Stevens Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts. hence because the tructs per reflect these terretains and frastian partition Pales and West is suspeed West is suspeed with larger and the suspeed with

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there are talks wheth curve $C_{e_{11:11n1}}$ all the collision and the control of th

empitched battles in Jerusalem

(Continued from page 1)

tions in recent days, heightening the unease of Israelis aready hracing for revenge anacks.

These reflect the growing t fury and frustration among the two million Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza a Strip with Israel for refusing to dismantle any of the 144 Jewish settlements that have now prod become a crucial factor in the

peace equation.
The occupied The occupied territories remained sealed off hy the army Saturday, fuelling Arab anger in the massacre's violent aftermath in which 27 people, all but two them Arabs, have "loc perished.

In the settlements, Israelis " were tightening security, with troops escorting settler convoys following army warnings that attacks are likely - and that the thinly-stretched milit-ary may not be able to thwart

The U.S. State Department Saturday warned Americans not to travel in the occupied territories and Arah Jerusalem because of the violence.

The army reported Saturday that four Palestinians were killed Friday - all shot while allegedly carrying automatic weapons or attacking Israelis with knives.

In the preceding week, near-RN were young Arabs. ly all those killed by troops

Faisal Husseini, the PLO's top representative in the occumed territories, declared at the rally: "After the massacre, there has been a change in the ground rules."

ııd:

- ախ

 $3000 \pm$

He said that the terms of the September accord "cannot be accepted any more... the settlements are a time bomh. We

ron and elsewhere remain, there will be more massacres," he declared.

Jibril Rajouh, a close aide of

We don't want to live next to people who are killing us," he said in an interview with Israel's Yedioth Ahronoth daily published Friday. "No one can promise that Hebronites will not take revenge."

Mr. Arafat is under growing grassroots pressure to ahandon the peace negotiations until. Israel takes tough action against the 120,000 settlers, who have an estimated 20,000 automatic weapons, and agrees to deploy an armed international force to protect Palesti-

Israel has said it will discuss about the settlements' future

this peace process is dying."

Israel wants talks resumed

(Continued from page 1)

Asked if Mr. Christopher hacked this proposal, Dr. Shaath said: "The resolution, including parts of it that are supported by the United States, will include international presence in the occupied.

Dr. Shaath said "modalities and timing" are still under discussion but "they will have to be security people. We're not talking about historians. and psychoanalysts... the hature of their armaments is part.

of the modalities. "We had positive discussions on these requirements (with the Americans) and we have not finished these discussions," he said.

'We want to resume the peace process as soon as possihle and to do that we need that security enhancement," to protect Palestinians from Jewish

extremists, he said. Earlier, Mr. Christopher said in a television interview that he believes there is room for compromise so Palestimans and Israelis can resume peace

He spoke as new violence flared in the territories, the continuing aftermath of last week's massacre.

"I think there is room for compromise. I think that because I think (Israeli) Prime Winister (Yitzhak) Rabin is determined to resume the negotiations." Mr. Christ-opher said on ABC Television's "Good Morning Amer-

ica" programme. But he rejected Palestinian demands that the issue of Jewish settlements in the West Bank be placed on the agenda

of the current negotiations. State Department deputy spokeswoman Christine Shelly said Mr. Christopher met for about 50 minutes with Dr.

Marylant

Shaath. "They discussed the importance of resuming the (Israeli-PLO) negotiations and the secretary heard from Dr. Shaath about the whole range of Palestinian concerns and particularly as they relate to

security," Ms. Shelly said. Dr. Shaath continued talks during the afternoon with other members of the U.S. peace team headed by Dennis Ross, special coordinator for

the Middle East peace process. "Certainly both the secretary and Dr. Shaath recognised the importance of getting the negotiations moving again. Our consultations with them about exactly when those talks can reconvene are still conimuing," the deputy spokesman said. "There isn't a date

fixed at this point." While she could not provide a complete account of the talks with the PLO special envoy. Ms. Shelly said: "Certainly there is a very broad recognition of the need to provide adequate security for all Palestinians and Israelis 35 they work toward the peaceful resolution of their differ-

coces." She noted the secretary has said on various occasions that cannot accept they stay on our

"If the settlements in Heb-

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat expelled by the Israelis from Hebron in 1986, warned in Tunis that if Israel does not uproot all its settlements in the occupied territories, "we'll distribute weapons to the Palestimians and return to the armed Struggle.'

allowing unarmed civilian observers, hut will not talk until 1996, under the terms of

the September accord. Mr. Husseini said Friday that Palestinians would not return to the talks until Israel addresses their demands, notmg: "We haven't given up on peace. But... I'm afraid that

"the matter of monitors is

something that we view in the

context of the declaration of

rvinciples which contains a

provision regarding a tempor-

ary international or foreign

presence as agreed on by the

parties," That reference

appears in Annex II of the

Protocol on Withdrawal of

Israeli Forces from the Gaza

Strip and Jericho area, she

The deputy spokesman said

she could not elaborate on

what Dr. Shaath told reporters

temporary international pre-

sence and precisely the modali-

are something that have to be

Mr. Christopher emphasised that the U.S. view that it's very

important to get the (Israeli-

PLO negotiations resumed and

to get the implementation

completed is the surest way to

change the realities on the

She acknowledged under

persistent questioning that

the subject of monitors, the subject of security and the range of Palestinian concerns

and their ideas on this were

But she declined to provide

details about the U.S. response

to Dr. Shaath's proposals or

possible U.S. support for them

that the subject of violence in

the territories is one on which the United States has "regular

discussions" with both the

Israelis and the Palestinians.

on both sides," she said.

What is necessary is restraint

The State Department has

been "in touch with the Justice

Department" to examine

whether or not the administra-

tion might be able to ban con-

tribution by American citizens

to militant Israeli settlers, Ms.

Existing laws deal with the

overall question of U.S. pri-

vate support for extremist

groups ahroad, she said.
"We're reviewing options

under existing laws as well as considering whether new laws or new regulations would be

appropriate to deal with the

issue." She said the State De-

partment is also in close liaison

with domestic law enforcement

agencies which are specifically

responsible for enforcing U.S.

Afrikaners

(Continued from page 1)

dication of a pending division

of the group, which claims to

represent most of the nation's

three million Afrikaners -

the Dutch-descended settlers

Viljoen called for a referen-

dom among South Africa's

five million whites to deter-

mine how many support

creating a white homeland.

Two years ago, whites voted

2-1 in favour of President

F.W. de Klerk's reforms to

Mr. Hartzenberg and Mr.

laws on the matter.

of South Africa.

end apartheid.

Shelly acknowledged.

Ms. Shelly told a questioner

things that were discussed."

ground," Ms. Shelly said.

ties which might relate to that

agreed by the parties."

"because the whole issue of the

amused by all the interest.

During a visit by Britain's Prince Charles to Prague in December 1992, Mr. Havel escorted the prince to the former prison to show him where

six, is often booked weeks in advance hy Western tour groups. Their members stole a brass plate with the legend in English President Vaclav Havel was jailed here" so many times that the owners replaced it with a plastic sign glued to the door. Dr. Vidim has capitalised on

the trend towards petty theft by selling copies of the sign at the hotel reception to guests, most of whom are students and backpackers, for 20 crowns (66

foreign tourists visited the Czech republic last year, earuing the country an estimated. \$1.5 billion in much-needed hard currency.

Although Prague remains a steady favourite with world travellers, the city is plagued by an accommodation shor-

Havel's former prison holds tourists captive

By Jeremy Smith

PRAGUE - Tourists needing a hed in one of the world's top travel destinations can now book in at a room with a difference - the cell where Czech President Vaclav Havel was imprisoned by the former Communist secret police.

For a mere \$33 a night, anyone can stay in the cells used to detain suspects such as dissident-turned-president Havel before they were subjected to sometimes grisly in-

After the Communists were toppled in the hloodless 1989 "Velvet Revolution," a private tourist organisation, JVN Pensions, turned the detention centre into a hotel, located in a prime position in the heart of Prague's historie old town.

"People like staying here... But we don't differentiate between Havel's cell and the rest," said Jiri Vidim, co-owner of JVN Pensions.

"We don't write in any brochure that Vaclav Havel was locked up here many times, although it's a historical fact - (Prague) castle could say that we're misusing the president's name for commercial purposes," he told Reu-

Mr. Havel seems to be "Personally I would rather sleep in a hotel than a prison, especially if I am paying the expenses," he said recently.

he used to stay.

Mr. Havel's cell, number

Approximately 70 million

tage. Many central hotels exploit. this by charging visitors over \$100 a night for a shabby 1950-style room.

The detention centre was originally a Franciscan convent before the Communists seized power in Czechoslovakia in 1948. The new government evicted the nuns and gave the building over to the widely-loathed secret police, the STB.

During the 1950s, the Communist authorities used it as a jail for long-term inmates. But in the years leading up to the "Velvet Revolution" they turned it into a holding pen for citizens suspected of "anti-state activity" prior to inter-

Demonstrators taking part in the waves of anti-government rallies in 1988 and 1989 were brought in droves to the convent's inner courtyard and made to stand for hours against the wall, Dr. Vidim said.

When the nuns regained possession of the convent after 1989, they found it destroyed by the STB's activities.

The secret police stored their weapons and listening equipment in the church next door and even had a shooting range downstairs," Dr. Vidim

"The huilding was in a dreadful state, completely wrecked, but the nuns didn't have any money for repairs.

They had to decide whether to go into husiness and rent out the space or leave it in the dreadful state - so they rented our part of the convent to he used as a hotel.' Dr. Vidim says the jail's

clandestine nature has actually beloed his hotel survive, as the rental agreement with the nuns stipulates there must be quiet in the huilding. The kids can go downstairs, drink, kick np a racket and

nobody can hear them. I don't even want to know what goes on down there. The nuns would be really shocked." The botel management has taken pains to see that guests do not feel too oppressed by

their environment by distributing delicate dried flower arrangements in all the rooms. The Turkish-style, hole-inthe-ground toilets originally designed to prevent prisoners from flushing away incriminat-

ing documents - have been ripped ont. Dr. Vidim also gave the whole huilding a new lick of

"It was all a bit grey," he said, "so we repainted everything in hright colours to make it friendly.

U.S. scholar says Islam and democracy can be compatible

By Rosalind Mandine Murphy USIA Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — U.S. policy towards the Islamic world should encourage political participation and human rights, says John Esposito, a distinguished U.S. scholar on Islam

Dr. Esposito is a professor of religion and international affairs and the director of the Centre for Muslim-Christian Understanding at Georgetown University. He discussed "Islam and the West," during a March 1 press briefing held at the U.S. Information Agency's Foreign Press

Centre in Washington. "The whole theme of Islam and the West is one that will continue to be a major concern in terms of foreign and in terms of international relations for some time," he said.

democracy are compatible, Dr. Esposito said all religious traditions are capable of flexibility and change. Indeed, he said, a debate on this issue is now taking pisce throughout the Islamic world. This dynamic echoes what has occurred in other religious traditions

Asked whether Islam and

throughout history, he said.
"Notions of political participation are very strong in many parts of the Muslim world. There are many Muslims who in fact are advocating various forms of democracy and legitimating it... by

reinterpreting traditional concepts of consultation and consensus and reapplying them in the modern period, "This debate... needs to be taking place on an even grander style in many Muslim societies, in order for the

tion to take place that I think many would like to see," Dr. Esposito added. U.S. foreign policy should "foster... political participation and human rights," in the Islamic world, Dr. Esposito said. In doing so, he said,

the United States must take

kind of constructive transi-

an even-handed approach. "We are very quick to want to implement democracy in some parts of the world and... seemingly quite silent in other parts of the world. I think an even-handed policy

is important," he said. The diversity of the Islamic

world and the role religion plays in each country must be taken into formulating U.S. foreign policy, Dr. Esposito

In looking at countries as diverse as Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Malaysia, one sees "a variety of Muslim countries responding to the question of the role of religion in society in very diverse ways, not in a mono-lithic way," he noted.

U.S. policy should respond to this diversity, "rather than either seeing a monolithic threat or a monolithic salvation," he said.

'It's not our husiness to intervene or to promote certain hrands of any ideology.... Different Muslim societies should be free to work out models that are appropriate to their populations," he stressed.

Western perceptions of Islam have often been coloured by conflicts rather than hy the realities of the Islamie world and Muslims, Dr. Esposito said. Today, he said, some columnists and experts view Islam as the new threat to the West in the post-cold war era.

"If some look at Japan as the new threat, ther are many others who ser a traile Muslims as comuttuing global ideological alternative to the West," he said. The West, he added, "tends to look at the Muslim world through the Arab/Middle East, even though two-thirds of the world's Muslims are in

Asia and Africa." Dr. Esposito rejected the popular use of the term "Islamie fundamentalism" as a sweeping characterisation of such diverse regimes as Sauch Arabia, Pakistan, Iran and

Libya.
"The problem is the term doesn't tell us much.... Compare the governments of Saudi Arabia and Lihya: conservative monarchy - radical populist state. It tells us very ittle," he said.

Dr. Esposito stressed. however, that this lack of understanding does not solely lie with the West. "There are far more scholars in the West, for example, and experts who know Islam and the Muslim world than there are counterparts in the Muslim world who know the West and... Christianity and Judaism," he said.

S. African army could have divided loyalties

By Anton Ferreira

JOHANNESBURG. -South Africa's white soldiers, long accustomed to defending apartheid, could soon he called upon to kill their own

hrothers and fathers to ensure that it dies. Political leaders on all sides agree the republic's powerful defence force (SADF) holds the key to whether a rightwing revolt against majority

rule can succeed. In a country where warnings of Bosnia-style civil war have become commonplace, the loyalty of the post-apar-theid armed forces is under the microscope.

The acid test could come soon. Black and white members of the right-wing Freedom Alliance say they would rather fight than be ruled by the African National Con-gress (ANC) — almost certain to win elections next

month. Despite the dismantling of apartheid and the looming all-race poll, some ANC members still distrust SADF

"I wouldn't he surprised ifthe boers (Afrikaners) are planning a coup like the generals in Chile," said one ANC official detailed to work with an SADF officer.

"All the senior MK cadres are known to the boers now. They could take them all out and the ANC would be helpless," said the official, who did not want to be identified.

MK (Umkhonto We Sizwe - the spear of the nation) is the armed wing of the ANC which is to be incorporated into the defence forces. Local newspapers said last month the SADF had warned president F.W. de Klerk of the possibility of a coup hy right-

wing officers. An SADF report to Mr. de Klerk had estimated that up to 60 per cent of troops might side with the right-wing rather than the government.

the papers said.
The defence force comprises 250,000 mainly white part-time soldiers, and 70,000 mainly hlack troops led hy white officers.

Bill Sass, a former SADF hrigadier who is now a researcher with the Institute for Defence Policy think tank, wrote that the right-wing could make areas of the

country ungovernable.
"Even if one per cent of the part-time SADF members mutiny, it would form the hasis of a strong group of guerrillas. he said, adding:

"Without the most strenuous of efforts and imaginative leadership, South Africa faces, at best, an IRA-style terror campaign. At worst. we face massive industrial sahotage and widespread blood-letting.

He said the permanent force would prohably be loyal to whatever government was elected in April. But he cautioned that a clash between black soldiers and white para-military forces could have far-reaching consequences.

A senior ANC official said one of the first tasks of an ANC-controlled defence force would be to act against the Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB), a heavily-armed neo-Nazi private army headed by Engene Terre Blanche.

Terre Blanche, who has said his followers would hurnthe country down if they did not get self-rule in an independent state, regularly para-des his 5,000-strong paramilitary force through the streets of conservative white

With Booyse, policy analyst at the Northern Transvaal Chamber of Industries, said sending the SADF against the AWB carried the seeds of a dangerous conflagration.

He said the current wave of bomhings aimed at railway lines, power pytons and ANC offices was only the tip of the iceherg of potential rightwing resistance.

"These are peripheral, I

don't think they are part of an organised campaign. I hope we never get to that, to the real thing," he said. Political analyst Mike Hough of the University of

Pretoria said nobody really knew the potential for mutiny in the SADF. We will need a showdown hefore the divisions become apparent," he said, adding that farm-based commando units were the most likely to

"The right-wing is saving that the recurrity forces might not fight on their side in a standard with the right of the righ conflict but will certainly not fight against them," Hough said.

sympathise with the right-

Mr. de Klerk and his Defence Minister Kohie Coetsee held a special meeting with reporters in Fehruary to say the SADF would obey the elected government of the

But they acknowledged that a "large" number of weapons had been withdrawn from white part-time soldiers whose loyalty was suspect.



TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION

TENDER NOTICE ISSUED BY THE "SPECIAL TENDER COMMITTEE" FOR THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROGRAMME

TENDER NUMBER 5/94

DIGITAL TRANSMISSION EQUIPMENT The "Special Tender Committee" for the National Telecommunications Programme ennounces

This project is one of the main parts of the National Telecommunications Programme which aims to expand the Jordanian Telephone Network.

The above mentioned tender (on turn-key basis) consists of design, supply, installation, testing

and commissioning of the following:

Tender No. 5/94 "Digital Transmission Equipment".

A) (70) Optical-fiber links with e total length of 750 km. B) Optical Terminals using PDH & SDH technology

C) (13) Microware links including terminal & multiplex equipment

D) (13) Microwere towers E) Supervisory equipment using TMN system. In addition to that, spare parts, civil works needed for cables laying and towers' erection and

training of TCC staff in operation and maintenance are required. Specialised companies ere hereby invited to submit their tenders in accordance with terms, conditions and technical specifications contained in the tender documents.

Tenderers are requested to submit in addition to price offer e financing proposal to finance the foreign currency portion of the contract to be awarded.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Tenderers are requested to submit their tenders in three separate seeled envelopes as follows: FIRST: Containing the technical offer

SECOND: Containing the "Price Only" on cash basis offer THIRD: Containing price plus financing offer i.e.: a) Price based on financing. b) The financing offer

Technical offers will be opened end evaluated first. Price and financing offers for technically ecceptable offers will then be opened. Tender documents may be obtained from Tender Section/TCC headquarters, Tower Building as

from Tuesday, March 8, against a non-refundable fee of (1500) one-thousand and five hundred Tenders, accompanied by a tender guerantee, are to be submitted in English not later than 12

a.m. local time on Saturday 18, June, 1994. The technical offers will be opened in the presence of tenderars' representatives, who wish to attend, on the same date.

Note: The last date for purchasing the tender documents is April, 20, 1994. Chairman of Special Tenders Committee' Ahmad Al-Nawawi



TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION

TENDER NOTICE ISSUED BY THE "SPECIAL TENDER COMMITTEE" FOR THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM-

TENDER NUMBER 4/94

DIGITAL SWITCHING EQUIPMENT The "Special Tender Committee" for the National Telecommunications Programme announces Tender No. 4/94 "Digital Switching Equipment".

This project is one of the main parts of the National Telecommunications Programme which aims to expand the Jordanian Telephone Network.

SCOPE OF WORK

The above mentioned tender (on turn-key basis) consists of design, supply, installation, testing

and commissioning of the following: A) (21) Main exchanges

B) (80) Remote Subscriber Units (RSU'a)

C) One training model

D) One repair centre E) One network management centre F) Related power, air-conditioning & fire protection.

In addition to that, apare parts and training of TCC stell on operation and maintenance ere

Specialised companies are hereby invited to submit their tenders in accordance with terms,

conditions and technical specifications contained in the tender documents. Tenderers are requested to submit in addition to price offer a financing proposal to linance the foreign currency portion of the contrect to be awarded.

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ettend, on the same date.

Tenderers are requested to submit their tenders in three separate sealed envelopes as follows:

FIRST: Containing the technical offer SECOND: Containing the "Price Only" on cash basis offer

THIRD: Containing price plus financing offer i.e.:

b) The financing offer a) Price based on financing. Technical offers will be opened and evaluated first. Price and financing offers for technically acceptable offers will then be opened.

Tender documents may be obtained from Tender Section/TCC headquarters. Tower Building as from Tuesdey, March 8, against a non-refundable fee of (2000) two-thousand Jordanian dinara. Tenders, accompanied by a tender guerantee, are to be submitted in English not later than 18 a.m. local time on Wednesday 15, June, 1994.

The technical offers will be opened in the presence of tenderers' representatives, who wish to

Note: The last date for purchasing the tender documents is April, 20, 1994. Chairman of Special Tenders Committee'

Ahmad Al-Nawawi

FCC launches new expansion phase

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The Telecomar Corporation Landided another to the contract expansion. in a many distanted in 1995. year any often for the suppmarchines and commising at the tall-watching and ticum campinedi.

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doubles aid

to Ukraine

WASHINGTON (R) - Presi-

dent Chaten said Friday he

was doubling to \$700 million

the amount of assistance

offered to Ultraine and said the

former Soviet republic was

moving toward a bigger role in-

Mr. Cimton anisotriced the

increase in response to

Ukrame' agreement to rid it-

self in angiver weapons after

months of resistance by

Climane's markament, which

had his they be diplomatic.

He also praised what he said

was progress in introducing

market reform after signing

several agreements with Ukrai-

nian President Leonid Krav-

chak and meeting a delegation

which included Olympic cham-

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"Over the last half year, I

have come to have higher

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optical terminals, microwave links and towers and supervisory equipment as well as training for TCC staff in operation and maintenance and spare

Jordan froze all telecommunications expansion projects in 1989 in the face of a severe economic crisis. As a result, the TCC has failed to meet increasing demand for telephone lines as well as other communication facilities.

The projects, however, were revived in 1993, after the Kingdom managed to address its pressing foreign debt problems and stabilised the dinar, but, experts note, the TCC has to redouble its efforts to make up for the four years that were lost. The programme launched in 1993 is expected to cost nearly JD 200 million.

"You simply cannot order

equipment and get it in a month's time," said a senior TCC official, "With the advances in technology, it takes as much as four years to order. build, install and commission new equipment of a level that would meet demands." TCC officials say that the

corporation would be able to meet nearly 80 per cent of all the country's needs by 1996. when the programme it launched in 1993 is expected to be completed.

In the meantime, most of the outstanding requests for new telephone lines in Amman's key husiness and residential areas would be met before the end of 1994, they say.

But then, the demand for telephones is ever growing." commented the TCC official. "It is a typical feature of the Third World that catching up with outstanding requests is never possible since seeking telephone lines is a neverending process." By the time the ongoing

programme is completed one in every 10 Jordanians would have a telephone line as opposed to one in every 15 that the country has today, according to TCC officials.

Partly to meet the immediate demands, the TCC has floated invitations to setting up cellular phones as part of a government concession after the related law - that gave the TCC a monopoly in telecommunications in Jordan - was amended.

TCC officials concede that cellular phones, which, hy nature, are expensive, are not the precise answer to the pressing demands of Jordanians, but say that they could go some

way in satisfying local needs. Tenders for the cellular phone project close next month. If a quick decision is taken and the contract awarded, cellular phones could be operational by 1995.

TCC officials emphasise that cellular phones represent only a complementary service that has no reflection on the national expansion plan.

They say that the cellular phone contract would be similar to the radio paging system contract given to the private sector. Under this arrangement, the contractor has set up and operates the project at own cost after paying pre-determined fees to the TCC.

A TCC scheme floated in 1991 to attract private sector investment in telecommunications through a "huy, operate and transfer" scheme did not

Innovative pay deal averts damaging German strike

HANOVER, Germany (R) — Employers and union leaders averted a potentially crippling strike in Germany's crucial engineering industry on Saturday after hammering out an innovative pay deal in 14 hours of talks.

The deal - combining a two per cent pay rise for seven months from June with schemes to secure jobs, reduce working hours and guarantee work for qualified trainees was given an immediate seal of approval hy Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

"The German government welcomes that agreement between the contract parties in the engineering and metal, in-dustry," Mr. Kohl's spokesman Dieter Vogel said in a brief first reaction.

"The agreement headed off an industrial conflict." he

Mr. Kohl had warned repeatedly this week that a strike could dash hopes of recovery from Germany's worst postwar recession

Strikes had been set to hit firms in the north German state of Lower Saxony from Monday after 41,000 members there voted by an overwhelming 92.2 per cent in favour of

The deal set on Saturday is expected to be accepted by the union's regional units across west Germany this week. It is also likely to set the tone for pay deals in other sectors.

Presenting the pay package to reporters after the all-night talks, Klaus Zwickel, head of the 3.2 million-strong I.G. Metall union, said the agreement would not have been possible without the strike vote and widespread token stoppages last month.

The employers would never have moved without the commitment of around 1.5 million token strikers, without the fantastic strike ballot vote in Lower Saxony and without the fighting spirit of our members," he said.

The employers had called for a wage freeze and a cut in holiday pay in order to slash costs by 10 per cent and restore firms' competitiveness.

I.G. Metall had originally sought a pay rise of up to six per cent, but - mindful of Germany's record four million unemployed - the union made clear from the outset it would accept a lower pay deal if joh guarantees were offered.

"Our goal was a trade-off of joh security against more money," Mr. Zwickel rold a news conference. "As we achieved joh security it was logical that we could not get as much money."
Employer leader Hans-

Joachim Gottschol, whose organisation Gesamtmetall had proposed the last-ditch talks in the northern city of Hanover, said firms had achieved their objective of warding off a new rise in costs.

"Companies will hear no additional costs from this deal in 1994," he told the news conference.

Wages would remain steady until June 1 before being raised hy two per cent, for a 1.16 per cent rise on average in 1994 as a whole. The pay rise was offset hy other cost savings. "No increase in costs means

costs have actually been cut if productivity rises are factored in," Mr. Gottschol added. But the most innovative ele-

ment of Saturday's deal came

in allowing firms and workers flexibility on working hours. Economists have long called for greater flexibility in Germany's labour market, to allow

companies to adapt fast to changing trading conditions. Under one new option agreed by I.G. Metall, employees at a firm may work as little as 30 hours a week, com-

pared with the usual 36, and be given pay compensation for this, but not be offered job security, union vice-president Walter Riester said.

UAE reports growth in non-oil industries

ABU DHABI (AFP) - A surge in investment since the Gulf war has boosted the nonoil industrial sector in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as it presses ahead with a drive to diversify its economy and cushion the impact of low oil prices, official reports have showed.

Between 1991 and 1993, industrial units increased to 1,528 from 1,225, and investments rose to 4.7 billion dirhams (\$1.28 billion) from 4.2 hillion dirhams (\$1.14 hillion), the reports said. "Initial estimates showed

that the non-oil industrial sector grew by 9.5 per cent in 1993, nearly double its growth in 1992," the state-run Emirates Industrial Bank (EIB) said in its weekly hulletin. "The high growth was due to an increase in demand and a 23 per cent rise in industrial investments after the Gulf war."

A planning ministry report said the value added in the non-oil industrial sector surged to 10.5 hillion dirhams (\$2.86 hillion) in 1993, from 9.4 hillion dirhams (\$2.56 hillion) in

The 1991 figure accounted for around 17 per cent of the total value added in the non-oil industrial sector in the sixnation Gnlf Cooperation Council (GCC). Officials said the growth

made the UAE's industrial sector the second biggest in the GCC after that of Saudi Arabia, where more than 4,000 factories have been set up at a cost of nearly \$30 billion.

The UAE and other Gulf states have launched industrialisation campaigns to reduce their reliance on unstable oil earnings.

Investment in other sectors

such as farming and tourism remained much lower.

Industries were still limited to cement, chemicals, clothes and textiles, foodstuffs, paper and other light products.

The GCC states have been pressing the European Union. Japan and other major industrial powers to supply them with technology to expand their industrial sectors.

Most industrial investment in the UAE after the Gulf war came from the private sector. while government activity concentrated on oil, gas, petrochemicals and infrastructure pro-

The government has announced attractive incentives for industrial investment, including soft loans and finance for project feasibility

The EIB said new projects and markets needed to have found in order to sustain growth in the UAE's industrial

"Last year, the number of projects approved by the bank stood at 18, compared with 21 in 1992. This is because the market has become saturated with such projects, and investors need new ideas, especially high technology projects, and bigger markets," it said.

A planning ministry report showed trade still dominated the UAE's non-oil economy. Its contribution to the gross domestic product (GDP) stood at 13.3 billion dirhams (\$3.62 billion) in 1993, while the industrial sector stood at 10.8 billion dirhams (\$2.9 billion). Despite diversification, oil

remains the dominant sector. with a contribution to the GDP of 51.3 hillion dirhams (\$13.9 billion) in 1993, nearly 40 per cent of the total.

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sumers are turning their noses up at purchasing foreign Of 189 people who had yet rice, citing safety concerns folto buy foreign rice, a total of 96, or 48 per cent, said they lowing reports that imports were contaminated with chehad no intention of doing so

Japanese shun foreign rice,

TOKYO (R) — Japanese conmicals or creatures such as mice and mites. Almost one out of two con-

sumers polled in Tokvo and Osaka this week said they would not purchase foreign rice for safety reasons, the daily Mainichi Shimbun reported Saturday. Only 11 (5.5 per cent) of the 200 respondents to the poll

foreign rice. They were divided in their evaluation - half said they noticed no taste difference from home-grown rice while

said they had actually tried

the other half said it tasted

cite chemicals, mice and mites

for fear the rice was contaminated with agricultural chemicals or creatures, the poll said.

A controversy over the safety of foreign rice erupted this week when a communist legislator told parliament that Japanese millers recently found dead mice and cockroaches in a pioneering shipment of imported Thai rice.

"These things don't become public because people tend to panic, but it's happening all over Japan," said Yuko Takasakt, a member of the upper

Apart from mice and cockroaches, she said hird bones, rubber hand, strings, cigarette hutts. pehbles and chalk had been found in Thai rice distributed to grain milling factor-Both the agriculture ministry

and the food agency handling imports denied anyone had found mice and cockroaches hut said some foreign objects such as pehbles turned up in the Thai rice. Tokyo fought long and tenaciously to protect its politically

powerful farmers by harring all rice imports, only to be forced late last year to give ground.

A devastating 1993 domestic harvest obliged the government to make emergency rice

purchases from abroad. Taiwan raises ceiling for foreign funds in bourse

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan raised the ceiling for foreign investment in its stock market to \$10 hillion on Saturday in a reform expected to attract a new flow of funds into one of Asia's largest bourses.

The ceiling for total investment by foreign institutions. which were allowed to begin investing directly when Taiwan opened its market in early 1991, was lifted to \$7.5 billion

from \$5 billion. The central bank also set a ceiling of \$2.5 billion on overseas fundraising by Taiwancse investment trust firms. Previously, the firms had not faced a tornial ceiling.

bull the mell masset at the of their a Newton's Table Deputy central bank govcenor Yu Chen said the reform would allow foreign funds to account for about six per cent of stock market capitalisation. roughly in line with curbs imposed by South Korea on its market and near the propor-

tion of the Japanese stock mar-

ket held by foreigners. The central hank, concerned that fund inflows could destabilise financial markets and hurt exporters by pushing up the value of the Taiwan dollar, had resisted heavy political pressure to raise the investment ceiling for several months.

The Securities and Exchange Commission, which wants to make Taiwan a regional financial centre as the island prepares to join the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), had pressed for a ceiling as high as \$20

'We welcome foreign funds for long-term investment, but not those for short-term profittaking," Mr. Yu told a news conference. He said fund inflows could

push annual M2 money supply growth up to 16.7 per cent and the central bank was prepared to prevent this by absorbing liquidity in the money market to keep growth in a range of 10 to 15 per cent.

Foreign institutions have so far received approval to bring \$4.71 billion into Taiwan, and have actually remitted \$3.36 hillion. Domestic investment trust firms have been approved

to remit \$1.53 billion and have brought in \$1.1 billion.

Foreign fund managers and securities analysts said the reform was likely to trigger a new wave of foreign interest in Taiwan's market, which soared 80 per cent last year although it bas fallen back since then amid heavy profit-taking.

"A lot of foreigners are still waiting to enter Taiwan and this is the signal for them to come," said Ben Lee at Wardley James Capel.

Several analysts said selling pressure remained likely to cut short any near-term rally sparked by the central bank's announcement. The market's weighted index closed at

5,671.46 on Saturday, and hrokers expect selling between 5,800 and 6,000.

But with economic growth officially forecast at 6.2 per cent this year and corporate earnings per share expected to rise by around 20 per cent. some analysts say the index could top 7,000 points by year's end.

The central bank's announcement sent the Taiwan dollar surging more than 10 cents to close at an eight-month high of 26.3200 to the U.S. dollar from 26,4280 on Friday.

Foreign exchange dealers said the Taiwan dollar could remain under upward pressure unless the central hank intervened in the market.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY MARCH 6, 1994 By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Use your intuitive faculties to get a firmer grasp oo the home scene where differences of opinion are growing at a rapid rate. Show that you are willing to listen to other points of view and go with the flow.

ARIES: (March 2t to April 19] Follow only accepted rules for handling any problems you may have, whether private or other wise, and avoid trouble that may

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A good day to be with influential persons who can belo you in your line of endeavour. Take no chances with your health espe-cially during this time.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A new project you have in mind needs more research before you put it in operation. Allow time to engage in your favourise hobby for peace of mind.

MOON CHILDREN: |June 22 to July 21) You may be thinking you are not progressing as you should, but keep plugging and you will gain your goal in a very big way.

LEO: (July 22 10 August 21) Listen 10 advice of a family tie who has your best interest at heart. Make long-range plans for the days ahead and any projects you are involved in will be suc-

VIRGO: I August 22 to Septem-

ber 22) A good day to visit a enjoyment. Be more precise in handling your personal affairs and you will get all you deserve. LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Forget a worrisome affair and delve into something more practical and profitable. Make plans to Improve your social life by going out with loved one.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A good day to study facts and figures so you can advance in career affairs. Strive for increased harmony at home through the kindness of others. SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Contact friends in the afternoon and discuss an portant plan you have in mind. Allow time for recreational acti-vities on this day.

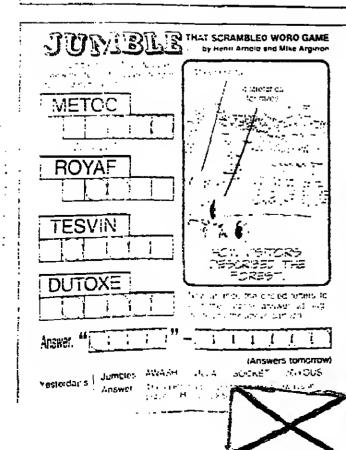
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A perfect day for getting out to new activities and perking up your enthusiasm. Re-lax at home tonight for you have

a long week ahead. AOUARIUS: (January 21 10 February 19) Listening to the suggestions of an expert can be most helpful to you now. Make this a most worthwhile day for all those who reside with you.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Follow your hunches early in the day because they are likely to he off target later. Take no risks with your reputation or you will be behind the eight ball.

ine duiter half By Harris HASRIS

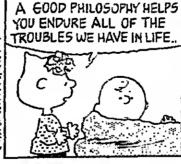
*To improve your pucker power, pick up a bowling ball with your lips 100 times a day..."



Peanuts









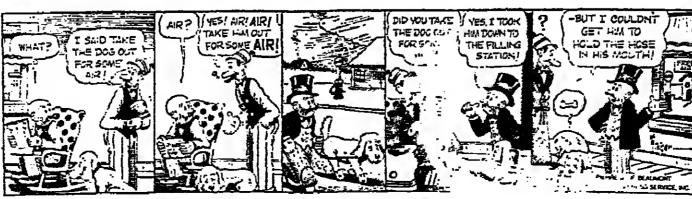
Andy Capp







Mutt'n'Jeff



THE Daily Crossword by Kenneth V. Holder ACROSS 1 Church section S Checks 10 Helm or Offon 14 Northern 26 Bar Infures 29 Steps over a fence 30 Showay 31 Dumpwapers 35 Firefail's bois 36 Proti for 37 Ballant fish 38 Foodson 48 Buish purple 41 — Jaw, Cahada 42 Disheveled 43 Expire 45 In Stranga Yesterday's Puzzle Solved: 45 in strance 23 Fountain drai 24 Certain bangu 22 Certain banque speaker 25 Martin or Allen 26 Strikebreeker 27 Hack 28 July 29 Bleckboard 31 White our 32 Musical 57 Double curve 58 Prank or mok 59 More expensive 63 Go ECWN 1 Vestments 2 Whatte 3 Gush 4 Good go 5 Heavy snoes 6 Certain alloy 1 Cookie 8 — Zadova 9 Transplager

(accept the

Canadian economy records in 4 years best performance

OTTAWA (AP) - The Canadian economy turned in its best performance in four years during 1993, led by exports and a modest revival in consumer and business spending, the government has said.

Statistics Canada, the government's statistical agency, said the economy grew by 2.4 per cent, up from a meagre 0.7 per cent in 1992, to match the ore-recession growth rate in 1989. That's still a far cry from the healthy growth rates of four to six per cent during the mid-1980s.

"There's a bit of progress," said George Saba, chief economist at Montreal Trust. "But the numbers are not spec-

Mr. Saba said the economy is still growing too slowly to bring down the unemployment rate which averaged 11.2 per cent in 1993. The rate is expected to remain above 10 per cent through 1995.

Growth for the entire year was buoyed by a surge in the last three months as the economy expanded by 0.9 per cent - a compound annual rate of 3.8 per cent.

The economy shrank in both 1990 and 1991 during the second worst recession since the 1930s

The 1993 numbers indicate. it was finally on a more solid "Merchandise exports were

the principal driving force, jumping 10.2 per cent in volume," Statistics Canada

That's been hinged on a strong U.S. economy, which surged ahead at 7.5 per cent double the annual Canadian rate in the fourth quarter. In addition to exports, con-

sumer spending in Canada was

1993 and business investment for the year was up 2.3 per cent Mr. Saba said the consumer spending was financed by drawing down savings or taking out loans. He added that incomes and employment have both been growing too slowly to produce a sharp increase in consumer confidence.

also up 1.6 per cent over all of

The numbers are preliminary estimates and will be revised later.

Economic growth is measured by the value of all goods and services produced by the economy, minus the impact of inflation the real gross domestic product.

At current prices, Statistics Canada estimated that Canada produced goods and services worth dollars 710 bilbon (\$530 billion at current exchange

Saudi supermarket chain reports \$22m loss

RIYADH (R) — The Saudi snpermarket chain Panda Company bas said its 1993 accumulated losses stood at 82.3 million Saudi riyals (\$22 million) due mostly to the expenses of a restructuring plan. "The losses are due to the expenses of the restructuring in addition to allocations for expired merchandise and bad debts." the company said in a statement issued in Riyadh. It said a new board of directors, appointed at the end of 1993 and beaded by Prince Al Walid Bin Talal, bas launched a restructuring drive, including expansion plans int he kingdom. The new board bad in January, agreed to raise the company's capital to 900 million riyals (\$240 million).

Iran deputies debate budget, warn of economic paralysis

lators Saturday started debating how to share out budget cuts forced by low oil prices, with warnings that the economy could be paralysed if too much hard cash was allotted to repaying foreign debts.

In a separate move, the central bank announced new import curbs and said it would not devalue the rival any time

The market was not impressed. The dollar did not budget from the 2,480-2,490 rival range on the open market after central bank governor Mohammad Hossein Adeli's interview was broadcast no Tehran radio early in the afternoon, dealers

The members of parliament's debate on expenditures for the Iranian year starting March 21 follows one in January on revenues. At the end of that debate, parliament shaved the oil income forecast by the government by 14 per cent to \$10.15 billion because of low oil prices.

Parliament in January earmarked \$1.6 billion of that revenue to repay part of Iran's \$8 billion in foreign debt

development projects which were fed in the current year from an estimated 12 billion in

On Saturday, deputies debated how to spend any extra cash in case oil prices rose and Iran earned more than \$10.15

They finally voted that it should be divided equally between debt repayments and development projects.

"If everything goes to repay-ments it means that many projects will be paralysed. It means many problems for society, an increase in unemployment," deputy speaker of par-liament Hassan Robani said. But deputy Hossein Fattahi

said any extra revenue should go towards repaying debts "for the sake of the country's pre-

ige."
Head of Plan and Budget Organisation Massoud Roghani Zanjani, speaking for the government, argued against allocating any extra funds for debt repayment.

"We have made good headway in rescheduling foreign debts and we do not face any particular problems in this re-

Mr. Zanjani said diverting too much money to repaying foreign debts "would have repercussions. Factories will shut down, unemployment will in-

crease, foreign exchange rates will go up. The rival hit an all-time low of 2,700 per dollar last week before a central bank announcement of impending intervention firmed it to about

Mr. Adeli told the radio the rival's sharp fall last week was due to substantial demand by government-affiliated industries and by importers worned that the currency might weaken further.

Reiterating regulations which bave sometimes been allowed to lapse because of shortage of bard cash in state coffers, Mr. Adeli said state industries must buy their dollar needs from state banks and all imports must be registered with the commerce ministry.

The central bank would adopt measures so that all imports would be handled through banks from March 21 and would provide hard cash in

the next two weeks to pay a backlog of letters of credit opened for priority imports, he

"1 assure ... those importers who have panicked that, God willing, we will provide the foreign exchange they need at the current bank rate," Mr.

The budget debate is expected to last about a week. The budget is nominally balanced and its overall figure is 69.8 trillion riyals (\$39.9 billion at the official rate), 28 per cent more than the current year's

approved figure. Part of the increase is due to completion of a devaluation of the rival annnunced a year ago. Some \$3.8 billion of essential imports in the current year were shielded from the devaluation to cushing its impact. But next year everything will be counted in the floating rate and the government pays rivals subsidies where necessary.

About 60 per cent of the overall budget is that of state banks and companies. The rest - 32.3 trillion riyals (\$18.5 billion) - is the government's

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET BOUSING BANK CENTER AMOUNT - SERCETANT TELEPRINE: 660170 / 663170 ORGANIZED HARKET STRAE PRICE 1357 POR SATURDAY 05/03/1994

COMPANY'S MAKE	-30	CLOSING PRICE		PRICE
ARAB BANK JORCAN BATTORIAL HAME CATTO ANDRE BARE BANK OF JORGAN H-100LE LAST INVESTMENT BAFE. LEDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BARE JORGAN GULF BARE JORGAN GULF BARK JORGAN SULF BARK JORGAN ISLANIC BANK JORGAN INVESTMENT FINENCE WILLIAM INVESTMENT BANK JUELL: ILSUGNANCE JORGAN FRENCE INDURANCE JORGAN FRENCE INDURANCE JORGAN FRENCE INDURANCE JORGAN FRENCE INCURANCE JORGAN FRENCE TOWN JORGAN FOREST FOUNDATION JORGAN FRENCE FRENCH JORGAN FRENCE FORE JORGAN FRENCH FRENCHMENT & BUCKATION JORGAN FRENCH BANK JORGAN JETHOLEM HEPTHANY JORGAN FRENCHMENT WEITHANY JORGAN FRENCHMENTAL NAMPHACTURING JORGAN GALAS INDUSTRIES JORGAN GALAS SUNDETRIES			101 500	104 000
- NOTAR WATTOWN TOWN	15.490 16,218	192.000	7 860	194.000
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HANY OF JOSEPH	33,200	1 220	4 900	4 000
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: Entert TAT TELEPHONE TANK	279,900	2.300	1 740	2.350
THE BORSTON MANY	22,003	0.300	6 100	0.200
JODDAK YIVATT RANK	22,000	2 140	1.400	2.430
JOHNAK CITY PARK	903, 104	2.370	2 340	2.100
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AND AND BANK BOD THERETONE	37,002	2.060	2.050	2 060
WITT AND DATA TOWNSHIPS THE	24,027	2.050	3.450	2.430
THE REST TRANSPORT	20,211	2.000	3 850	2.170
TOOD A. COUNTY THOUSAND	2,050	1.030	3.690	2.650
JOHNSON PRINCIP ENGERANCE	9,170	2.700	2.660	2.000
DATACKOUT THROUGHUE	43,205	1.750	1.750	1.750
JUNEAU COLF INSURANCE	2,292	4.150	1.150	3.930
NOPPANIAN ELECTRIC POPER	20,211	2.340	2,340	2.150
ARAB 78 ERVATIONAL HOTELS	2,425	4.860	0.850	0.850
JORDAN TOURISM & EPA COMPLEX	900	0.750	0.750	0. 750
MATIONAL PONTFOLIO SECURITZES	30,695	4,530	4. 520	2.510
HEAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	444	1.740	1.710	1.730
EXCHIBARY EQUIP. RESTING & MAINTENANCE	5,276	1,120	1.120	1.140
JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION / ALRA'I	2,730	23.800	13.650	13.650
UNITED RIDDLE EAST 5 COMMODOPE HOTELS	7,425	2.270	2.220	2.220
ARAB INTER, FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	46,757	1.050	3.670	1.840
THE JORDAN CEPTAT PACTORIES	15,621	3.130	2.120	2.100
JORDAN PRINCIPLE REPIEMBLY	1,506	10.390	10.400	10.290
JORDAN TANNING	2,820	7.820	7.820	7.820
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	2,927	7.180	7.150	7.180
THE CONDAR WORSTED MILLS	69,103	12.500	12.050	12.700
ARAB PHARMACKUTICAL KANUFACTURING	46,885	7.780	7.780	7. 790
JODDAN CERREIC INDUSTRIES	670	5.720	5.700	6.700
JORDAN DATPY	300	1.050	3.000	1.000
THE JORDAN PIPES HABUFACTURING	12,015	4,490	4.450	4,450
SPINGING & WERVING	550	2.760	2.750	2.790
RAPIR INDUSTRICS	3,092	3.090	3.200	1.100
RAPIA INDUSTRIES JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES	1,120	0.360	0.370	0,270
PAP AL DAWN OBVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	214,137	17.750	17.000	18.000
ARAB INVESTMENT & INCREATIONAL TRADE	3,453	2.120	2,310	2.300
ARAB ALDRIDIUM INDUSTRY	5,552	10.100	10.100	10,070
GENERAL INVESTMENT	20,234	1.500	1,500	3,500
ARAB PAPER CONVENTING 5 TRADING	1.148	1.530	1.530	1.530
JORDAN MEDICAL CORPORATION	12,101	0.510	0.540	0.530
MATICMAL STEEL TERRISTET	2,575	5,120	5,150	3.150
INTERCEDIATE PETRO-CHOOLCAL INDUSTRIES	3.720	3.390	1.190	3.370
JOHDAN ROCKWOOL IMPOSTRIES	23,733	2.250	2.170	2,240
JORDAN PRECAST CONCRETE INDUSTRY	1.060	0.390	0.380	0.380
MATICOCAL CARLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	2,900	7.220	7.250	7.250
JORDAN SULPRO-CHERTCALE	1.937	3.350	1.150	3.330
AREA CENTER FOR PHARM, & CHROTICALS	37,036	3.360	1,430	3.440
CORDAY KINDAT CO. FOR AGES. A POOR PEOR.	920	1.220	1.230	1.220
UNIVERSAL MUDERA INDUSTRIES	85,295	4.914	5.740	5.900
SPIREID & WENTHE RAPIT HOUSTRIES JORDAY GLASS CHOISTRIES JORDAY GLASS CHOISTRIES DEPART HOUSTRIES JORDAN PROCEST CONCRETE HOUSTRIES JORDAN PROCEST CONCRETE HOUSTRIES JORDAN PROCEST CONCRETE HOUSTRIES JORDAN PROCEST CONCRETE HOUSTRIES JORDAN SUCKNOOL RUPSTRIES JORDAN KURATI CO. FOR ARKI, & ROOD PROCUMENTALE PART SETTIFF FOR PRINT, S. EMBRICALS JORDAN KURATI CO. FOR ARKI, & ROOD PROCUMENTALES				

NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET | 180450

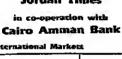
Financial

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Currency	New York Close 44-3/3/1994	New York Close 1344/3/1994
Sterling Pound	1.4960	1.4895
Deutsche Mark	1.7110	1.7190
Swiss Franc	1.4370	1.4415
French Franc	5.8125	5.8445
Japanese Yen	103.90	105.60
European Current I nit	1.1300	1.1260

strocurrency Interest Ra	rtes			
Corrency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTE
U.S. Dollar	5.3125	3.4375	3.5625	4.000
Sterling Pound	4.9375	4.9375	5.0000	5.062

U.S. Dollar	5.3125	3.4375	3.5625	4.0000
Sterling Pound	4.9375	4.9375	5.0000_	5.0625
Deutsche Mark	5.8750	5.6875	5.3000	5.3750
Sween Franc	4.0000	3.9375	3.8125	3.6875
French Franc	6.1875	6.1250	5.9375	5.8125
Japanese Yen	2.1250	2.0625	2.0625	2.1250
Furopean Carrency Unit	6.3200	6.1900	6.0800	5.9400

Metal	USD-Oz	JD/Gim	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
f,vid	377.55	7.40	Selver	5.25	0.120

entral Bank of Jordan E	Date	5/3/1994
Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dellar	0.7002	0.7020
Sterling Pound	1.0418	1.0470
Deutsche Mark	0.4068	0.4088
Swha Franc	0.4855	0.4879
French Franc	0.1197	0.1203
Japanese Yen	0.6631	0.6064
Detch Golder	0.3623	0.3641
Swedish Kroua	400480	******
Balian Lira	0.0475	0.0417
D. J. J Un		*****

Pri let Other Cuttengles	Date	Date: 5/3/1994		
Carcac	Bid	Offer		
Rahratoi Dinar	1.8380	1.8540		
Lebanese Lira	0.040465	0.041745		
Saudi Riyal	0.1863	0.1872		
Kuwaiti Dinur	2.3300	2.3500		
Qatari Riyal	0.1900	0.1915		
Egyption Pound	_ 0.2050	0.2200		
Omani Kışıd	1.7950	1.8150		
L'AE Dirham	0.1900	0.1915		
Greek Druchma	0.2745	0.3187		
Cyprint Pound	1.3525	1.3875		

Russian premier slams central bank loss over inflation

MOSCOW (R) — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, in his first known public attack on central bank boss Viktor Gerashchenko, said Friday the conservative banker was wrong in not mak-ing fighting inflation a top

Mr. Gerasbebenko, wbo worries more about falling production than restoring confidence in the rouble, told a government meeting that inflation was a "lesser evil" than mass unemployment.

A red-faced Chernomyrdin roared back at Mr. Gerashchenko: "If we want to have a weak state, then go and give out money. If not, do not. Future Russian generations will never forgive us if we leave them a weak country. "It would make sense if Mr.

Gerashchenko said what he

said today a year ago. But now, the time is out," Mr.

Mr. Chernomyrdin is not the first top government official Mr. Gerasbebenko bas The central banker spent

Chernomyrdin added.

most of 1993 quarrelling with former finance minister Boris Fyodorov, a tough monetarist who resigned in January saying he was not going to spend the rest of his life fighting Mr. Gerashchenko. Mr. Gerashchenko advocates support for ailing indus-

tries. He also backs cheap credits for former Soviet republics to finance their imports from Russia. Western economists say lax central bank policies are behind two-digit monthly inflation in Russia.

Mr. Gerashchenko had no magic solution to Russia's economic troubles. "Our economy has got into a stagflation trap And there will be no easy way out," be said.

Vietnam seeks private infrastructure investment

HANOI (R) - Vietnam, try, government ministers said. needing billions of dollars to upgrade its infrastructure, has told foreign businessmen it would need private capital as well as aid to do the job.

The vehicle for such investment - especially for costly projects like power plants could be build-operate-transfer (BOT) contracts in which a foreign company installs a plant, runs it for a while then turns it over to the host coun-

Vietnam issued a decree last November adding BOT contracts to the forms of foreign investment permitted and setting out regulations.

Minister presented a list of 12 priority projects — without price tags — they said would be suitable for BOT investment at a seminar in Hanoi attended by about 100 foreign

China's 1994 economic targets may be unachievable 'ideals'

BELJING (AFP) — China's overheated economy reached its cyclical peak in 1993 but official growth and inflation targets for 1994 may still turn out to be unachievable "ideals," the State Statistical

Bureau (SSB) has said. China's gross domestic product (GDP) grew 13.4 per cent last year to 3.14 trillion yuan (\$361 billion), the highest rate since 1985, while industrial output totalled 1.41 trillion yuan, up 21.1 per cent on 1992, SSB Director General Zhang Sai quoted the bureau's 1993

communique as saying. Investment in fixed assets jumped 50.6 per cent over 1992 to 1.18 trillion yuan while the amount of money in circulation soared 35.3 per cent to 586.5 billion yuan, fuelling retail price increases of 13 per cent nationally.

The cost of living meanwhile rose 14.7 per cent nationwide, with the rate for the 35 biggest cities at 19.6 per cent compared with 13.7 per cent in the countryside, the communique

But the bureau chief noted that per capita income had on the whole kept ahead of inflation with real increases of 10.2 per cent in cities to 2.337 yuan and 3.2 per cent in rural areas

However, he acknowledged, rapidly increasing prices had "led to the decline of living

Direct foreign investment continued to soar, with \$110.9 billion contracted, up 90.7 per cent, and \$25.76 billion utilised, up 130 per cent, the SSB report said, adding imports jumped 29 per cent to \$104,4 billion while exports rose only eight per cent to \$91.8 billion.

standards in some house-

The report revealed that China's foreign exchange re-serves bit 21.2 billion yuan, up 1.76 billion on the end of 1992. Funds deposited in the Bank of China, the country's main foreign exchange bank, were not included.

Mr. Zhang said the main problems facing the economy were steep price rises, together with excessive fixed-asset investment and bottle-necks caused by the failure of infrastructure to meet the demands of high growth. Transport facilities could only meet 60 per cent of demand, be said.

He said he believed GDP growth and inflation had both bit "the peak of the current cycle," but indicated they would remain relatively high for some time and gave little

sign of government resolve to bring them down. Warning that any dramatic

drop — like that accompanying the three-year austerity drive launched in 1988 to cool the economy - would have harmful effects, Mr. Zhang said government targets of under 10 per cent for 1994 inflation and of nine per cent for GDP growth were "only ideals."

"There might be some slight change of one to two per cent" in GDP growth, he said, while the real target for inflation was to maintain it "at the bearable limit of households."

He expressed confidence, bowever, that the annualised figure would not equal the 17.8 per cent or 18.5 per cent ex-perienced in 1988 and 1989, while noting that monthly year-on-year rises had already reached a comparable level.

On targetted money supply for 1994, Mr. Zhang also declined to give a figure.
"This doesn't add up to a

very convincing programme — it doesn't sound like a government ready to deal with things wbatever the cost," said a Western diplomat, expressing surprise at the government's unwillingness to reveal where it boped the economy would be in several months.

Singapore increases spending

SINGAPORE (AFP) - The government will spend 16.7 billion dollars (\$10.5 billion) in the fiscal year beginning on April 1, an increase M 19 per cent from the figure of year. Finance Minister Richard Hu has said.

Mr. Hu said that 10.5 billion dollars (\$6.6 billion) would be for recurrent expenses and the remaining 6.2 billion dollars (\$3.9 billion). 37 per cent of the total, for new development projects.

"The main part of the de-velopment budget will go towards the provision of social and economic infrastructure, he said, outlining the government's 1994 budget proposals.

Mr. Hu said the development expenditure would fund several new bospitals and schools, land reclamation. public housing and improve-ment to the public transportation system and capital grants to statutory boards.

"Singapore's philosophy of economic management is that the government's role is not to surplant the private sector but to help its development so as to provide Singaporeans with a good life," he said.

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Tulip bulbs

return to a **Dutch menu**

SCHAGEN, Netherlands

(AP) - A restaurant here is recalling the bitter days of the

Nazi occupation by reviving

tulip bulb soup. Variations of the soup sustained many starv-

ing Dutch citizens during the

"hunger winter" of 1944 when

German occupiers stripped the

nation of foodstuffs to send to

Germany. The bulbs of the

Netherlands' national flower

have a high starch content,

making them an ideal potato

substitute. Survivors of the

Nazi occupation remember

them for their bitter taste. "I

haven't tasted them but my

parents ate them during the

war and say they taste terrible,

very bitter," said Liesbeth Van

Der Horst, a spokeswoman for

the Dutch Resistance

Museum, which features an

exhibit on the tulip's uses as

food during occupation. Chef

Rob Pany at the Igesz Res-

taurant in this northwestern

city will serve up bis tulip bulb

soup later this month for the

Dutch Year of the Tulip mark-

ing the 400th year since the

bulbs were imported from Tur-

key. Mr. Pauv is keeping mum

on his recipe, but said Friday

that staff at the restaurant say

his creation is delicious, "Real-

ly it is just a case of the recipes

being used to disguise the taste of the bulbs," said Ms. Van

Black, white conservatives dash Serbs io join South African election

Zulu ehief Mangosuthu Buthelezi and white separatist Constand Viljoen signed up at the last moment to contest South Africa's multi-racial elections, but said they were only keeping their options

In the first sign of a crack in a right-wing boycott of the Aoril 26-28 democracy vote. they each paid deposits of 70,000 rand (\$20,000) late Friday to reserve a place on the iballot paper.

An electoral official said they had until 4:30 p.m. (1430 GMT) Wednesday to confirm their participation by nominating candidates for the country's first all-race parliament.

Mr. Viljoen, leader of the Afrikaner Volksfront (AVF), said the Volksraad, an rebel Afrikaner parliament, would decide at a meeting in Pretoria Saturday whether his Freedom Front Party would actually stand in the elections.

A spokeswoman for Mr. Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), Sue Voss, told reporters at the .Johannesburg: office of the Independent Electoral Commission that its participation would depend mainly on talks with the ANC Tues-

Ínkatha's Central Commitree decided at a six-hour meeting in the Zulu capital of Ulunci to back Mr. Buthelezi's proposal for its provisional registration pending further nego-tiations or international mediation on its constitutional de-

Inkatha said mediation should cover "the constitution and rationalising the electoral process and timetables to translate constitutional agreements into a fair and free election in which all parties can compete on an equal footing."

Chairman Frank Mdlalose, arriving at the electoral commission's offices three hours before the midnight deadline for registration, told reporters: "We will actively start campaigning as of this minute."

But Ms. Voss said a final decision wbether to contest the elections would depend on meetings with the right-wing Freedom Alliance Monday and the African National Congress Tuesday.

. The ANC bad cleared the way for Inkatha to register by formally accepting Mr. Buthelezi's demand for international mediation on his constitutional demands.

Mr. Buthelezi and other Freedom Alliance leaders want guarantees of strong regional powers in a post-apartheid South Africa. Mr. Buthelezi seeks constitutional recognition of the Zulu king, while Mr. Viljoen demands a right to

white self-determination. Five small groups took advantage of an extended deadline for registration, making a total of 29 planning to contest the polls. They included a Muslim party, an African Democratic Party, a Green Party and a sports party with the acronym Soccer.

President F.W. De Klerk welcomed the Inkatha decision to register provisionally, but told party supporters at a rally in Durban: "I would have preferred them to register full

ANC spokeswoman Gill Marcus welcomed the decision and said the ANC was confident that a settlement including Mr. Buthelezi's Zulu-based party could be negotiated with international belp.

But she said that the election ending almost 350 years of white minority rule in South Africa would go ahead as scheduled on April 26-28. "The election date won't be changed," she said.

Mr. Bnthelezi said in Cape Town Thursday it would be unfair to expect Inkatha to catch up now without postponing the vote becaue other parties bad a campaign lead of over two months.

ANC leader Nelson Mandela and the South Africa government Saturday ruled out a postponement of the first allrace elections next month, setting the scene for a new showdown with the right-wing.

The looming row over the date for South Africa's historic elections muted any optimism over the last-minute registration for the poll.

Mr. Mandela said Saturday of the election date: "That is a date which is fixed and cannot

U.N. Richard Carter, spokesman for President F.W. De Klerk,

SARAJEVO (R) - Serb Mr. Mandela, in separate comments on Friday night. also repeated his rejection of the white right-wing demand for a Volkstaat. Mr. Viljoen is expected to

receive a stormy reception Saturday at a meeting of the AVF leadership in Pretoria. Radical AVF members have booed him down in the past when be suggested taking part in the election and newspapers have speculated that the white right could soon split.

told Reuters: "We are com-

pletely committed to April 26

Mr. Viljoen registered for the poll Friday night under the Front, saying he had not had time to consult the AVF on the

Fellow Alliance member President Lucas Mangope of Bophuthatswana told reporters Saturday he might register for the poll Monday. The formal deadline was Friday midnight but ANC leaders have said this could be extended.

Asked about moving the election date, Gen. Mangope said: "The only logical thing would be to extend it. The South African government could convene parliament to change the date."

The ANC has agreed to an Alliance demand for international mediation of outstand-

blockade convoys in Bosnia

forces Saturday blockaded U.N. convoys around Bosnia, including an aid column trying to reach the Muslim town of Maglaj which the United Nations wants to make a safe

Apart from the Maglaj convoy, another aid mission heading for Sarajevo was stopped at Hadzici nearby by an orga-nised protest of Serb women and children. Five U.N. convoys belong-

ing to Canada, France and the Netherlands were blocked at Zvornik by Serbs who objected to their peacekeepers or complained that the trucks would damage roads. In Maglaj three civilians were killed by Serb artillery

attacks during the night while collecting food dropped from the air, Muslim-controlled Sarajevo Radio said. Maglaj, which has received

no ontside aid by road since October, has become Bosnia's deadliest fire zone with scores of casualties since ceasefire took hold in Sarajevo and central Bosnia this month.

Serb forces stalled the convoy in defiance of a threat by U.N. Commander General Sir Michael Rose to use force if necessary to get the trucks to

Kris Janowski, an official of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refngees (UNHCR) said in Sarajevo: The bottom line is that they are not letting this convoy in and they are making all kinds of excuses."
All three sides have barassed

convoys during the 23-month war since Bosnian Serbs turned on Muslims and Croats after they voted for independence from former Yugoslavia.

But aid officials bave blamed Serbs for most of the disruption in supplies of aid and food to almost three million victims

of the fighting.

The U.N. Security Council voted nnanimously Friday night to consider adding Maglai, Vitez and Mostar to its list of safe bavens under the protection of NATO warplanes. It also demanded that Serbs

Muslim targets in defiance of the U.N. no-fly zone over Bos-

Although the Sarajevo ceas-efire is intact, the U.N. has observed an increase in the calibre of random firing in and around Sarajevo with use of mortars and rocket-propelled grenades.

conrdinate the restoration of city services including electricity and water. The BSA, obliged to slacken its armed stranghold on much of Bosnia, has continued to test the resolve of U.N. peacekeepers for any sign of

A U.N. spokesman said five Howitzers the BSA sneaked back into a 20 kilometre artillery exclusion zone around Sarajevo were removed early Saturday at U.N. insistence, A sixth was expected to be withdrawn during the day.

Peacekeepers' spokesman Major Rob Annink, asked if the Serbs were trying the U.N. patience, told reporters: "I agree. It looks like that."

lift their siege of Sarajevo,

which is still surrounded

although a threat of NATO air

strikes this month forced the

Bosnian Serb Army (BSA) ro

neutralise the artillery it used

to kill 10,000 people in the

The council asked Secretary

General Boutros Gbali to

appoint a civiban official to

Bosnian capital.

weakness

NATO jets drew blood Monday when they shot down four Serb warplanes bombing

"It is obvious that there are still some heavy weapons not under control," Maj. Annink said. "That is one of the reasons we need more troops in the area to deploy between the warring factions...If we are not in control in the next few days, the ceasefire might col-

Bosnian Muslim and Croat negotiators met at the United States embassy in Vienna Friday for a "get-acquainted" session ahead of np to 10 days of talks on forming a federation.

They are due to settle the details of a U.S.-brokered accord to establish a Croat-Muslim federation — with the bope of ending nearly two years of fighting — under the auspices of U.S. President Bill Clinton's special envoy, Charles Redman.

those at Yongbyon, north of

the capital. They made the first

IAEA inspection of North Ko-

rean nuclear facilities in more

South Korea, announcing a

decision to suspend the "Team

Spirit" military exercise with

the United States next year,

resumed border talks Thursday

to discuss the exchange of en-

than a year Thursday.

Sarajevans repair their grenade-shattered roof in a Muslim neighbourhood of the beseiged Bosnian capital Sarajevo (AFP

crew to kick off habitation

New Biosphere 2

Der Horst.

ORACLE, Ariz. (AP) -Biosphere 2 is embarking on what its operators bope will be the start of 98 years of continuons habitation in the domed ecological laboratory - and the recovery of its image as serious science. Nearly six months after the first eight-person crew ended a twoyear stay inside the lab, the project has been redesigned. Beginning Sunday, a crew of five men and two women will rotate in and out of the threeacre glass-and-steel bubble and its 10 apartments. The private, for-profit project is supposed to run like a remote research station. Space biospheres ventures, based 58 kilometres (35 miles) northeast of Tucson, operates the (150 million experiment paid for largely by Texas billionaire Edward Bass. It was designed to last 100 years as a self-sustaining laboratory replicating earth's environment with a rain forest, ocean, savannab, desertturned-chaparral, marsb and

Cat blacks out Ho Chi Minh City

HANOI (R) - A cat blacked out Ho Chi Minh City's television programmes for 10 minutes when it jumped onto a mains power switch and sbortcircuited the station's electricity supply, the trade union newspaper Lao Dong reported Saturday. The cat's fate in Thursday night's incident was

4

Feline herolne. of Los Angeles quake dles

LOS ANGELES (R) - Tif-

fany, the cat found alive trap-

ped in a closet 41 days after the Los Angeles earthquake, died Friday from the effects of malnutrition. "It's very tragic," said Maureen Beaman at the veterinary clinic where Tiffany, a mixed Persian breed, was being treated. "We were all very close to her. We Were pulling for ber. She was actually improving, but then suddenly she died, poor baby," Ms. Beaman said. Tiffany was taken to the Santa Clarita Vallev animal clinic Sunday by her owner, Laurie Booth, after being found Sunday in a neighbour's outside storage closet where she had bid, terrified, in the Jan. 17 earthquake. The cat was trapped when Ms. Booth's neighbours unwittingly locked her in the closet. Ms. Beaman said Ms. Booth was distraught over the loss of her beloved pet. "She is terribly, terribly, upset. Extremely upset," Ms. Beaman said. The feline weighed about eight pounds (four kg) before the earthquake but emerged as a bundle of skin and bone, having survived without food or water and living purely on her own body fat and protein. "Sbe died of malnutrition, purely and simply," Ms. Beaman said. "We were feeding her intravenously and giving her liquid cat food, but unfortunately it was too late," she

Angola reports army advances in north kilometres from diamond-

state rac : Thursday reported advances by government forces ground the northern town of Sacrimo in Lunda Sul pro-

"Iz Lenda Sul... government forces have been liberating villages." the radio said. "Two villages under rebel control for more than a year were recently liberated.

Saurimo is some 200

China -

frees top

dissident

BEIJING (R) — China re-

leased its most famous dissi-

dent Saturday after his deten-

tion, for more than 24 hours,

threatened to scuttle a key visit

to Beijing by U.S. Secretary of

China's fledgling Democracy Movement, called an associate

Saturday from a country north

of Beijing to say he was now

free and expected to be home

expressed strong disapproval

over Mr. Wei's detention, part

of a nationwide sweep against

dissidents in advance of Mr.

Christopher's visit which be-

Nir. Clinton has warned be

will not renew China's key most

Mr. Christopher's visit is

seen as a last-ditch attempt to

force the Chinese to make con-

cessions that will let Mr. Clin-

what was done, and it obvious-

ly is not belpful to our rela-

tions." Mr. Clinton told repor-

ters at the White House,

adding that "we bave sent a

very stern statement" to

Mr. Christopher, who left

Washington on his Asia trip

Friday, said he still wanted to

oress ahead with his visit to

These events only under-

score the importance of being

able to make buman rights

points at the highest level.

That's been a major purpose of

my trip and I intend to do

that." he told reporters aboard

Half a dozen activists in

Shanghai were rounded up to

keep them from talking to Mr.

Clinton's top human rights

official, who was in China to

prepare for the Christopher

Mr. Wei, who became a

potent symbol of China's lack

of freedom of expression dur-

ing 14 years in prison, had

inluntly told Assistant Secret-

ary of State for Human Rights

and Humanitarian Affairs

John Shattuck the United

States had to be tough on

China to get progress.

visit, dissidents said.

his plane.

China despite the arrests.

"We strongly disapprove of

lions of dollars in trade.

President Bill Clinton bad

late in the day.

gins on March 11.

ton extend MFN.

Chinese authorities.

Wei Jingsheng, the father of

State Warren Christopher.

producing areas in the Cuango Valley, which UNITA rebels have held since expelling the government from most of Lunda Norte province in late 1992.

UNITA has been selling diamonds from areas under its control in Lunda Norte to buy arms. An industry source in Luanda said he thought up to \$200 million worth of diamonds leaked out of UNITA areas in 1993.

State radio said international relief flights to the besieged northern city of Malange resumed Friday after being suspended following rebel shelling Wednesday and Thursday.

The government-held town has been under a UNITA siege since the start of last year. Aid sources confirmed the report.

ons across Britain Saturday to

NEWS IN BRIEF

LONDON (R) - Anti-nuclear activists blockaded the entr-

protest a court decision allowing a giant nuclear waste reprocessing plant to start operating. The small, peaceful

demonstrations at the three English and two Scottish plants

were marred by an accident in which a protester was hit by a

security van and taken to hospital. The man was not thought to

be seriously hurt after the incident at Torness plant near Edinburgh where protesters formed a human chain to block

the main entrance for two bours. A British judge Friday

rejected a request by the environmental group Greenpeace

and Lancashire County Council to order a public enquiry into the £2.8 billion (\$4.17 billion) Thorp installation at Sellafield

Ukraine warheads to cross Russian border

MOSCOW (R) — The first 60 nuclear warheads taken from

strategic missiles in Ukraine are on their way to neighbouring

Russia for dismantling and will cross the border Sunday, the

official ITAR-TASS news agency said. TASS quoted a senior

Defence Ministry source as saying this was the first step in

implementing an agreement signed in January between Ukraine, Russia and the United States to destroy the 1,600 former Soviet warheads on Ukrainian soil. TASS reported

earlier that Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, who is

Russia from the Ukrainian town of Khmelnitsky later this

Cruise ship runs aground in Finland

5 U.K. nuclear plants blockaded

Comedy actor John Candy dies

LOS ANGELES (AP) — John Candy, the lovable, overweight comic actor who rose from television skits to starring roles in some of Hollywood's most successful comedies, has died of a heart attack on a Mexican movie set. He was 43.

The star of Uncle Buck, Planes, Trains And Automobiles and many other films was found dead Friday in his residence during filming of the Western comedy Wagons East. near Durango, Mexico, said Gary Goodman, the film's pro-

Hector Partida, spokesman for the Durango State Government, said Candy had a heart attack in his sleep and was dead when paramedics arrived. The production of Wagons

East was suspended. Candy played the drunken wagonmaster of an 1986s prairie schooner heading the wrong way. Said co-star Richard Lewis:

Everyone should know that the night before he died, myself and (co-star) Robert Picardo were blessed to be in a scene with Jobn Candy which showed all of us his genius." It was unclear if the film

could be completed. Goodman Born and reared in Toronto. Candy co-starred in last year's

Cool Runnings, a hit film about the Jamaican bobsled

He appeared in the 1991 drama Only The Lonely and the comedies Stripes, National Lampoon's Vacation, Splash and The Great Outdoors.

S. Korea, U.S. to hold nuclear talks The domestic Yonhap News clared nuclear sites including

SEOUL (R) — A team of senior U.S. officials will visit South Korea to discuss ways to resolve the long-running dispute over North Korea's nuclear development programme, a Seonl Foreign Ministry

team, led by assistant U.S. Secretary of State Robert Gallucci, will arrive in Seoul next Thursday for three days of talks with South Korean offi-

lucci was also expected to meet

"The talks would be focused on measures to jointly cope with North Korea's suspected nuclear arms development programme," the spokesman said, without elaborating.

Agency said the two government would review their positions on the North Korean nuclear issue and reconfirm a proposed inter-Korean exchange of special envoys Thursday, a precondition of a third round of talks between

Washington and Pyongyang. Mr. Gallncci and North Korea's First Vice Foreign Minister Kang Sok-Jn led their delegations in the two rounds of high-level talks last summer, which stalled with the United States insisting Pyongyang talk to Seoul and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to discuss nuclear in-

spections.

A six-member team of IAEA inspectors arrived in

It said the decision was conditional on the envoy exchange, which the South hopes

will help settle the nuclear dispute and pave the way for a meeting between the two Ko-But the talks are deadlocked

over the North's repeated demands that Seoul stop nuclear war exercises, halt international cooperation in solving the nuclear issue and give np a plan to deploy Patriot missiles m the South.

White House, treasury hit with Whitewater subpoenas

WASHINGTON (R) — Six White House aides were subpoenaed to lestify on Whitewater-related matters. and White House lawyer Bernard Nussbaum prepared to resign, as fallout from Presideni Bill Clinton's controversial financial dealings in Arkansas widened Friday. A treasury spokesman said

three treasury officials were also ordered to testify before a grand jury in the case. The subpoenas were ordered by Whitewater special counsel Robert Fiske, who demanded

grand jury. Mr. Nussbaum, a longtime friend of Mr. Clinton's wife Hillary, met with the president late Friday but his expected departure from the White House staff was delayed until

the production of White

House documents for the

at least Saturday. "The president and Bernie met tonight. They had a good meeting. We'll have nothing further 10 say today (about the resignation)," an official said.

Despite the delay. Mr. Nussbaum's resignation was a certainty, an official said, adding. "it's a hard thing." Mr. Nussbaum, a 55-year-

has come under fire for meeting federal officials overseeing a probe of Arkansas business deals involving the Clintons and their friends. The discussions occurred

old former Wall Street lawyer,

just after the Resolution Trust Corp. — a federal agency set up to manage the eleanup of the savings and loan industry - asked the Justice Department to look into possible criminality in connection with the collapse of Madison Guaranty Savings and Loan.

The subpoenas were the first to hit White House officials in the special counsel's probe. Those subpoenaed to testify

- Bruce Lindsey, a senior adviser to the president and one of Mr. Clinton's closest friends. - Deputy White House

Chief of Staff Harold Ickes. - White House Communications Director Mark Gearan. - Mr. Nussbaum.

- Margaret Williams, Mrs. Clinion's chief of staff, and - Lisa Caputo, Mrs. Clinton's press secretary. The six are to testify on

March 10 before a federal

grand jury in Washington, D.C., White House officials said.

Sources said the Treasury Department officials issued subpoenas were Deputy Secretary Roger Altman. General Counsel Jean Hanson. and Chief of Staff Joshua Steiner.

Mr. Fiske also ordered the production of documents concerning conversation between the White House and the Department of the Treasury or the Resolution Trust Corp the thrift crisis clean-up agency - concerning the probe of Madison Guaranty.

Madison's owner was James MeDougal, the Clintons' partner in the money-losing Whitewater real estate venture that has given the political explosive affair its name.

"The White House will comply fully and promptly with the subpoena," White House Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers said in a statement.

Mr. Myers released a memorandum from Deputy White House Counsel Joel Klein ordering compliance with the demand for papers and spelling out how the requested documents were to be

White House computer records, trash baskets and burn bags be preserved for the special counsel's investigation.

at a news conference wbether Mr. Nussbaum was leaving, pointedly declined to give him sign that Mr. Nussbaum had become politically radioactive.

to add to what I said vester-

trying to influence the probe.

that might have anything to do with this." he said Friday.

visiting Washington, had announced the nuclear convoy's favoured nation (MFN) traddeparture at a Friday news conference. Interfax News Agency ing privilege in June unless said the nuclear cargo left the railway station of the Ukrainian Beijing improves its human city of Pervomaisk Friday evening and reached Poltava region rights record, threatening bil-Saturday. It said a second cargo was expected to be sent to

in northwest England.

HELSINKI (R) — Water is no longer pouring into a cruise ship which ran aground in icy waters off Finland's southern coast, forcing the evacuation of 1,101 passengers and 158 crew, the vessel's owners said Saturday. The Saily Albatross was badly holed and water gushed into the engine room after it went aground near the Porkkala peninsula Friday afternoon while returning to Helsinki after a 24-hour cruise in the Gulf of Finland. The 169-metre (554 ft) Sally Albatross freed itself but started listing badly and was towed into shallow water after all passengers and crew had been safely evacuated. "The water was coming in quite heavily at one moment during the night," said Eeva Korhonen at shipping company Silja Line, the ship's owner. A tug was at the scene and water was still being pumped out from the stricken ship. "We assume that the boat will be where it is for several days but the situation is stable," she

Berlusconi attacked over tax cuts

ROME (R) — Italian Budget Minister Luigi Spaventa attacked right-wing rival Silvio Berlusconi's plans for tax cuts Saturday but a pollster said the right was ahead in the race for a landmark general election later this month. Mr. Spaventa, who is running for the leftist "progressives" against tycoonturned-politician Berlusconi in central Rome, accused the right of making empty promises on taxes. "The right-wing alliance formed in Italy is neither liberal nor free-market but rather lavish, populist and all talk. In fact, of the South American type," Mr. Spaventa said in an interview with the daily Il Messaggero. "It seems that their basic promise is: "I am better, so things will get better when I get power." he added. A "poll of polls" in Il Messaggero showed the right-wing grouping of Mr. Berlusconi's Forza Italia (Go Italy) party, the separatist Northern League and the neofascist National Alliance led the left by up to six percentage points ahead of the March 27-28 vote. The newspaper quoted the Cirra Polling Institute as putting the right's share of the vote at around 42 per cent.

spokesman said Saturday. The spokesman said the

Mr. Gallucci will meet Kim Sam-Hoon, special senior advisor to Foreign Minister Han Sung-Joo for nuclear affairs, the spokesman said. Mr. Gal-

> The two countries last month agreed to resume the talks ou March 21.

Pyongyang Tuesday to examine North Korea's seven de-

preserved for the grand jury. Ms. Myers also released related memoes ordering that all

The president, asked Friday a vote of confidence - a sure

He ignored one Nussbaum query and said in reply to another, "I have nothing more

Mr. Clinton made clear at the news conference that he felt procedures were now in place to prevent any perception that the White House was

"We have constructed a clear and appropriate firewall between the White House and any federal regulatory agency

"I want a full investigation. I want this thing to be done fully, clearly, and be over with." Mr. Clinton said.

added مِلَدًا منه المراط

Sukova eliminates Sabatini, Graf rolls on in Florida

DELRAY BEACH, Florida (R) — Helena Sukova extended Gabriela Sabatini's victory drought to 30 tournaments in a row Friday while Steffi Graf rolled to another commanding triumph at the \$400,000 Virginia Slims of Flor-

The fifth-seeded Snkova scored a 6-4, 6-4 quarter-final victory over Sabatini, seeded third, while the top-seeded Graf, a four-time champion here, reached the semifinals with a 6-2, 6-1 victory over seventh-seeded Sabine Hack of Germany.

The last of Sabatini's 25 career titles was the Italian Open in May 1992 — 30 tournaments and 21 months

"I do need a turning point to get back that confidence," said the fifth-ranked Argentine. "It's a little disappointing every time. It doesn't make me feel too good."

Saturday's semifinals pit Graf against Sukova and second-seeded Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain, who beat 16th seed Stephanie Rottier of the Netherlands 6-3, 6-2, against 14th-seeded American Chanda Rubin, a 6-4, 6-0 winner over ninth-seeded

Ukrainian Natalia Medvedeva. Sabatini, a three-time former Slims of Florida champion, came into the match with an impressive 11-4 winning record over the 18th-ranked Sukova. Prior to Friday's loss, Sabatini had dropped only two sets to the Czech in their last 10

"I lost that many?" exclaimed an astonished Sukova, a finalist at the 1993 U.S. Open. "You shouldn't have told me. I guess it's good I beat

that Sabatini faced here. Having lost in the opening round of her last three tournaments, Sukova imported coach

game. Jirik, who is also a physician, had the right re-"My confidence is hack because of him," said Sukova.

help me over that." Sukova played an intelligent match - capitalising on her strong serve-and-volley style, but also dominating play from

"I was surprised at the way she played," Sabatini said. "She maintained her level very well. She never slowed down. I was waiting for her to change,

Graff, the world number one

Graf broke the 22nd-ranked Hack's serve in the third and fifth games of the first set. Hack held serve only once in the second set - in the third

"I guess I played all right," said Graf. "Sometimes, I lost my concentration on a couple

Sampras reaches semis of the Champions Cup

match, by outrallying the tena-cious Muster and breezed

through his own service games.

engage Sampras in long rallies

and to hit looping shots to the

American's backhand, Sam-

pras controlled the second set

as well, breaking the Austrian

haseliner three times while dropping his own serve once,

when Muster scored three

times on passing shots. .
Sampras — who has won the

last three grand slam events,

the 1993 French Open, the 1993 Wimhledon and the 1994 Au-

stralian Open - called his

surfaces, said he was simply

Cahill this week had beaten

11th-seeded Marc Rosset of

Switzerland and fifth-seeded

Goran Ivanisevie of Croatia

hearts.

West led the queen of diamonds and continued the suit. When East.

led a third round, declarer ruffed ied a unro round, declarer rulled high to protect against an overruff. South's judgment was proved cor-rect, but when East showed out on the first trump. South still had to

lose a trump and a club for down

Whether the hand was played at duplicate or rubber bridge is irrela-vant. All that can be determined

from this performance is that

South's dummy-play technique de-served no more than a two on our

After losing the first two tricks, declarer still had to concede a club no matter what. The only danger to

the contract was a 4-0 trump split

and declarer could have protected

against that easily enough.
Instead of ruffing the third dia-

Tel.: 634144

before falling to Edberg.

GOREN BRIDGE

BATTEN DOWN THE HATCHES

North-South vulnerable. East to the top spot by jumping to four

overwhelmed by Sampras.

Despite Muster's attempts to

INDIAN WELLS, California (R) — Top seed Pete Sampras, playing at the top of his game. routed eighth-seeded Thomas Muster of Austria 6-3 6-2 in 74 minutes to reach the semifinals of the \$1.72 million Champions Cup late Friday.

Third-seeded Stefan Edberg of Sweden ended unseeded Darren Cahill's upset run here beating the Australian 6-4 6-3 in 62 minutes in his quarterfinal match at the 56-player, hard court tournament.

Tenth-seeded Petr Korda of the Czech Republic outlasted 16th-seeded Carlos Costa of Spain 6-3 3-6 6-3 in a two hour,

Unseeded American Aaron Krickstein ousted 12th-seeded Alexander Volkov of Russia 6-3 6-4 in the fourth quarter-

In the semifinals, Sampras faces Edberg, and Korda plays Krickstein.

The top-ranked Sampras pounded in 11 aces and kept the 11th-ranked Muster on the defensive throughout the match with his aggressive net

play. Sampras hroke Muster once in the fourth game of the first set, the longest game of the

NORTH

♠ A 3 ♥ A J 5 3 ◊ J 9 7

+A872

SOUTH

South West
1 Pass
Pass
Pass

Opening lead: Queen of \(\psi\)
We have constantly exhorted that ssimism pays at the bridge table.

Consider the play of this hand and

then rate declarer's ability on a scale of one to 10, with 10 being the ex-

Once South made a vulnerable

overcall, there was no way North

was going to stop short of game. Since a jump to three hears would

have been invitational and any tem-

porizing bid might bave been

passed. North took the direct route

WEST

T

0

D

9 (2 <u>1</u> (2)

10742 10976

EAST

♦J9a5 Ÿ Void

♣ Q J 10

0 AK 10 4 3 2

North

her this time." It was a different Sukova

Jaromir Jirik to repair her

"He knows my personality and which strings to pull. After my last tournament I was very much down. He was able to

the backcourt.

hut she didn't.

who has not lost a set in the 20 matches she has played this year, posted 26 winners to Hack's four.

Scottie Pippen scored 22 points and Corie Blount added 17 for the Bulls, who fell to 3-7 since the All-Star hreak, including 2-6 at Chicago Stadium.

Portland, whose last win at Chicago was in game two of the 1992 NBA finals, won its second in a row and is 8-1 in its last nine games Chicago, which has lost four

Celties snapped their

franchise-record 13-game los-ing streak with a 109-99 victory

over Los Angeles Lakers late

Friday as Dino Radja posted

career-highs with 36 points and

The Celtics had not won a

game since Jan. 30, and were

winless in the entire month of

The Lakers and Celtics -

once the marquee matchup of

the NBA but now two teams

needing a big turnaround just

to make the playoffs - were

meeting for the second time in

six days, L.A. having nipped

Dee Brown added 22 points

for Boston and Acie Earl had

10 points with-a career-high

In Chicago, Clyde Drexler

scored 28 points and pulled down nine hoards to lead the

Portland Trail Blazers to a

115-96 win over the slumping

three-time defending cham-

The loss was Chicago's

fourth straight at home, the first time the Bulls have done

that since April 8, 1984.

Drexler hit 11 of his 19 shots

and connected on four 3-

pointers. Rod Strickland

added 16 points and dished out

11 assists as six Blazers scored

in double figures.

Boston 100-97 Sunday.

nine rebounds.

pion Bulls.

15 rebounds.

February.

straight since a three-game win streak, has been held under 100 points in each of its last six In San Antonio, David Robinson scored 14 of his 41

points in the fourth quarter to

lift the Spurs to a 121-113

second half as the Suns overcame a sluggish start to record their 20th straight victory over The Pacers, winners of 14 of the Minnesota Timberwolves, 106-101. A.C. Green added 18 points

Portland Trailbiazers Harvey Grant (right) blocks a shot by

Chicago Bulls Pete Meyers (centre) as the Trailblazers Clyde

Drexler (left) looks on during their NBA game (AFP photo)

and 11 rebounds, including four points in an 8-0 run early in the fourth quarter that gave the Suns a comfortable 92-83 In Denver, Reggie Williams

scored all 20 of his points in the

second half to lead the surging

Nuggets to a 98-89 triumph

over the Orlando Magic.

victory over the struggling Los

In Phoenix, Cedrie Ceballos

scored 17 of his 29 points in the

Angeles Clippers.

Boston Celtics snap record loss

streak with win over L.A. Lakers

In Indianapolis, Derrick McKey scored 24 points and Byron Scott added 16 off the bench to lead the red-hot Indiana Pacers to a 126-110 rout of the New Jersey Nets.

their last 16 games and nine in a row at home, improved to 3-0 against the Nets this season. Reserve Johnny Newman scored 20 points to pace the

Nets, who have lost hack-toback games for the first time since Feh. 6 and 8. McKey was 9-of-11 from the

field and 6-of-7 from the line for the Pacers, who never

Peacock upsets Manchester United

LONDON (R) — Gavin Peacock, scorer for Chelsea in Manchester United's only previous defeat in the English Premier League this season, repeated the feat Saturday as the Londoners stunned the league leaders 1-0 at Old Traf-

Chelsea handed United their only previous loss in the league this season with a similar scoreline at Stamford Bridge in September. Before Saturday United had been unbeaten in 34 league and cup matches, only six short of the English

Blackburn, 2-0 victors over Liverpool, narrowed the gap at the top of the league to four points, although United have a game in hand.

Jason Wilcox and Tim Sherwood, recalled after injury, scored for Blackburn each side

Ian Wright, not required in new England manager Terry Venables's first squad and dropped for Arsenal's mid-week European Cup Winners' Cup quarter-final first leg match against Torino, scored a hat-trick as the north London side thrashed lpswich 5-1.

Wright scored a splendid goal from a tight angle in the 18th minute, converted a 40thminute penalty and scored again four minutes from time for his 27th goal of the season. At the other end of the table, bottom-placed Swindon

salvaged a 1-1 draw with West

Manchester United, in hot pursuit of a nuique English treble of league title, league cup and F.A. Cup, started without inspirational French-man Eric Cantona for the second game in a row.

And ominously for the Old Trafford crowd of 44,745, Chelsea fielded the only two men to score winners against United this season - Peacock and Mark Stein, who scored twice for Stoke City in the league eup also back in

Both men combined for Chelsea's goal Saturday with 31 Stein nodding the hall to as

Peacock who calmly beat Peter 18 Schmeichel, Kenny Dalglish, a cult figure for Liverpool both as player and manager, was his usual emotionless self as his new team Blackburn showed the battle for the premier league title is far from over.

Wilcox scored in the 17th minute when Norwegian Henning Berg caught the defence napping with a clipped pass to leave Stuart Ripley in the clear Ripley sent over a low cross and Wilcox rammed the ball past David James from close

range.
Blackburn grahhed their second in the 65th minute when Liverpool's defence was again canght flat-footed and Alan Shearer opened the way for Sherwood to put a 15-metre shot beyond James's reach.

Kankkunen wins Portuguese Rally; Auriol occupies second place

ESTORIL, Portugal (AP) — Finnish driver Juha Kankkunen won the Portuguese Rally late Friday, roaring out of the mid-country hills pressed only by French teammate Didier Auriol who took second for a Toyota sweep of the four-day road race.

Kankkunen, last year's world rally champion, pushed his Toyota Celica to a 6 hour, 20 minute and 59 second overall time, winning nine of the 36 dirt and gravel stages and finishing 40 seconds ahead of runner-up Auriol.

Italy's Massimo Biasion, in a Ford Escort Cosworth Cs, was 50 seconds off Kankkunen for third. Carlos Sainz of Spain was 2 minntes, 16 seconds behind in his Snbaru Impreza 555 for fourth in the 2,215 kilometre road race.

Auriol threatened to over-

take the Finn in the final two days of racing.

But it was Kankkunen's consistency, never lower than fourth in a stage, that won the "Flying Finn" the roses and his first world rally victory of the 1994 season.

"It was a very tough rally, very hard fought," Kankkunen said after racing to the finish in this town 26 kilometres west of Lisbon. "That last leg was brutal.

Local favourite Carlos Sainz also drove well, winning one stage and tying for second with Kankkunen on another. But Sainz's effort and the screaming support of thonsands of fans who lined the roads to cheer him on were oot enough to top the feisty driving of "Miki" Biasion.

Biasion, after being passed late on day three hy Auriol, roared back on the last leg to win two stages and tie Kankkunen for first on another, racing to within ten seconds of

The 1994 Portuguese Rally has seen favoured drivers drop out early: Scotland's Colin McRae Thursday abandoned the race after his Subaru 1mpreza 555 stalled on the steep midcountry hills.

racewinner Francois Delecour of France and Italy's Andrea est Aghini, both of whom left the race with engine failures Wednesday, on the sidelines.

Friday's final eight stages covered 592 kilometres from the central town of Viseu to

hard and dry after four days of sun, despite the early fog.

Maradona still unpredictable after all these years

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — The image of soccer star Diego Maradona, squinting down the harrel of a compressed-air rifle, was of a besieged man literally taking aim at his critics and tormen-

effort against Muster his best Maradona, the best-known "I thought I played a solid active player of the world's match, 1 came ont and 1 workmost popular sport, has admited the points. 1 didn't make ted shooting at journalists any errors. I was going for my gathered outside his home returns and serving well, and I'm very pleased going into the semis against Stefan," Sampras Feb. 2, a day after he and Argentine team Newell's Old Boys announced he was leaving the club. Five journalists Muster, who admits he is more comfortable on slower

were injured by the pellets.
"Out of control," read a leading newsweekly's cover headline under a photo of Maradona pointing the rifle. Five days later, after travelling to Oriente, a fishing town

(450 kilometres) sonth of Bnenos Aires to escape the media glare, Maradona fought with a news photographer in a restaurant.

Even for Maradona, known for his mood swings, this was bizarre behaviour. Argentines, usually quick to

forgive their hero's sins, are wondering about his state of mind just four months before the World Cup begins in the United States.

"He has become a victim of a world that cares about success, nothing else," Guillermo Blanco, Maradon's former press chief, told the Associated Press. "Everyone wants to know if he's going to play in the World Cup. That's important. What's important is him as a person."

Maradona is trying to relax in Oriente with his wife, Claudia, and daughters Dalma, 6, and Giannina, 4. He must testify to a judge investigating the shooting, but a date has not been set, said one of his lawyers, Hngo Wortman

An AP request to interview Maradona was rejected. But many Maradona watchers say the midfielder is depressed because at age 33, hampered by leg and backs injuries, he realizes he is not longer the player who dominated the 1980s.

Maradona, however, said Thursday he is "dreaming of playing the World Cup," which would give him the chance to 'go out with flying colours." Those who know Maradona do not doubt him.

"Maradona always needs to feel motivated, and the only motivation he has is the World Cup," said Enrique Sacco, a radio and TV journalist who has covered Maradona closely. "On the national team he feels permanently motivated."

Throughout his career which began when the 15-yearold from the Buenos Aires slnms signed a \$100 a week contract with local team Argentinos Juniors — Maradona has been as brilliant with the soccer hall as he has been

clumsy without it. In 1991 he received a 15month suspension for testing positive for cocaine use after a game for the Italian team Naples, where he played from 1984-91. A month later, after returning in disgrace to Buenos Aires, he was arrested for cocaine possession.

Maradona was not sentenced to jail, but ordered to undergo treatment and suhmit to periodie drug tests.

During his suspension, the 1.65 metre Maradona hallooned nearly nine kilogrammes. He repeatedly said he would never play competitive soccer again.

But he signed with the Spanish cluh Sevilla, where he failed to improve a mediocre team in his only season there.

Upon his return to Argentina, Maradona again promised that he was retired. But with the help of a Chinese dietitian in Uniguay, he lost about lu kilogrammes, returned to the national team and signed with Newell's - his first stint with an Argentine league team since 1981.

"One constant about Maradona is his unpredictability. Blanco said. "You can never guess what he'll do next," At his best in the mid-1980's,

Maradona zigzagged with the hall seemingly attached to his foot, freezing defenders in their tracks the way Michael Jordan did on the baskethall court. The precision of his passes often surprised even his teammates.

On the higgest stage of all, the World Cup, Maradona took on an aura of invincihility, leading Argentina to the title in 1986.

He got away with scoring one of his two goals in the quarterfinals against England by illegally using his fist: The so-called "hand of God" goal, decisive in Argentina's 2-1 victory, gave the country a measure of sporting revenge for its defeat in the 1982 Falkland Islands war with Britain, and assured Maradona's place as a national legend.

In 1990, with defenders sha-

dowing his every move, Maradona was less effective in the World-Cup.-But his presence created opportunities for team-mates, and Argentina finished runner-up to West Germany.

Today, Maradona can still make the sharp pass, as he did in a tie and win in two qualifying games against Australia last year.

But he is at least a step slower than he was in 1986. Defenders, all too aware of his passing ability, usually trip or slide-tackle Maradona before he can set up his teammates.

"Just by the nature of aging. his body isn't the same as in 1986," Sacco said. "He doesn't have the same explosion. He can still be important to the national team, but not decisive like in '86."

Though neither Newell's nor Maradona spelled out the reasons for their Feh. 1 separation, Maradona was clearly tired of limping on worn-out legs and disgusted with his team's poor play. Newell's apparently decided that Maradona was not worth the \$7 million they had to pay for

But Maradona, surprising as always, says he wants to return

"When 1 give myself to something, I give myself com-pletely." Maradona said Thursday. "I feel I owe a debt to the fans, and I want to pay it

Harding's mother gets strange package, bomb squad called

PORTLAND, Ore (R) — The bomb squad was called in Friday after the mother of figure skater Tonya Harding received a suspicious package, police

The incident happened a day after Harding was attacked by an unknown assailant while walking bome through a Portland park Thursday night. She escaped, but suffered scrapes, hruises and a sprained wrist.

Harding is under investigation over allegations she was involved in plotting the Jan. 6 attack on rival skater Nancy Kerrigan.

Lavona Golden, Harding's mother, went to pick up mail from a post office box in the Jantzen Beach Shopping Centre in Portland Friday afternoon, and found a small package with a letter attached, Portland police spokesman Derrick Foxworth said. Golden opened the letter, but left the package untouched.

Foxworth said the anonymous letter said something like: "I'm a Nancy Kerrigan fan and you're Tonya Hard-

Foxworth did not know the contents of the letter in detail, but he said Golden interpreted it to be a threat and made an emergency call to police.

"She became fearful it was a bomh and she called 911," he

A police officer came to look at the package, decided not to open it and called in the bomb squad, which took away the

Foxworth said the bomb sonad had not yet opened the package, hut planned to do so sometime Friday evening. Harding has long had a stormy relationship with her

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mother.

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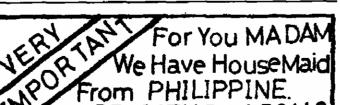
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PHILADELPHIA presents **FILOFAX** ROUND TRIP A popular political comedy **Opening Soon** Ahlan Arab Summit Conference Shows: 12:30, 3:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 Actors: Abeer Issa, Daoud Jalajel, THELMA AND LOUISE TO HEAVEN A political comedy Hassan Al Shaer, Fuad Shomali (play) CONCORD '2' Shows: (2:30, 3:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 in addition to other comedians Shows: 12:30, 3, 8:30, 40:30 Forbidden × Forbidden Every night at 8:15 daily at 9:15 p.m. Tickets are sold all day Theatre is closed Sundays, Monday: **PASSENGER** and Tuesdays Coming soon: The next play Shows: 12:30, 3:00, 6:30,8:30,10:30

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Vigliantes wound aileged Gaza kidnapper

SHATI REFUGEE CAMP, occupied Gaza Strip (AP) -Assailants dragged two suspected kidnappers into the square of this refugee camp Saturday, then shot one in the leg and clubbed the other as hundreds of residents looked on. Men linked to Fatch have been acting as self-styled enforcers in the occupied Gaza Strip, shooting and wounding suspected criminals in public. The men, called Fateh Hawks, saidin a statement Samrday that they were responsible for security unol a Palestinian police force is deployed under Palestinian autonomy. The suspected kidnappers had taken three-yearold Mohammad Nawajha from his home on Thursday and demanded \$9,000 in ransom. On Saturday, Fateh activists found the kidnappers' hideout and rescued the boy unharmed, Palestinian reporters said. Three masked Hawks dragged the alleged kidnappers. Ali Abu Kas, 24, and Mohammad Thabet. 19, to Shati's main square. Both men had their arms and legs ued. One of the gunmen then shot Abu Kas in the left leg and the others beat up Thaber. About 200 camp residents watched the scene. Abu Kas and Thabet were taken to a nearby

Iraql paper calls for summit to face Israel

BAGHDAD (R) — An Iraqi newspaper published by President Saddam Hussein's eldest son Uday on Saturday called on the leaders of Iraq, Libya and Sudan to meet to coordinate and Israeli policies. "It is not impossible... for the leaders of Iraq, Libya and Sudan... and leaders from any other Arab country concerned with the Palestinian issue... to draw up a polifical, economic and military agenda," the newspaper Babel said in a commentary. It said such a meeting would be the "prelude for... relations of a developed kind among the summit countries.'

University head, son killed in Algiers

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PARIS (R) - The director of the Algiers school of fine arts and his son were shot dead Saturday morning on the university premises near the centre of the Algerian capital, security forces there said. The forces, quoted by the Algerian state news agency APS monitored in Paris, said the two were killed by two "terrorists," the official term for armed Muslim militants. The gunmen, including one carrying a school satchel, got into the institution by pretending to be students, Ahmad Asselah, 54, was shot in the head and died immediately. His 22-year-old son Rabah, a student at the university, was wounded in the stomach and taken to hospital, where he died

Libya will observe Aouzou ruling

CAIRO (R) - Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, quoted by an Egyptian newspaper, has said Lihya would withdraw from the Aouzou Strip but first needed to make unspecified arrangements with Chad. The International Court of Justice (ICI) in the Hague ruled last month that the strip was part of Chad and that Libya should withdraw its forces, which have been there since 1973. "Qadhafi told the Egyptian press delegation now visiting Libya that Libya would abide by the ICI ruling on withdrawal from the Aouzou Strip," the semi-official Egyptian newspaper Al Ahram reported. "He said that the file on this region was now fully closed by the court's final verdict but that there were some arrangements between Libya and Chad to put the courtr's decision into practice." The newspaper gave no other details.

Pope to go to Lebanon despite blast

ROME (R) - Pope John Paul's top aide said Friday the pontiff would go ahead with a trip to Lebanon despite a bomb people in a Catholic church near Beirut last Sunday. "He will make the trip as a pastor and as pilgrim... Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Angelo Sodano said. Cardinal Sodano was speaking at a mass in Rome for the victims of the blast in a Maronite Catholic church near Beirut that also wounded 60 people. Lebanon's information minister said the blast may have been designed to stop a papal visit scheduled for May. It will be the Pope's first visit to Lebanon, which is rebuilding from the 1975-1990 civil war.

Canadian journalist shot in Kabul

KABUL (AP) - A Canadian freelance journalist and his interpreter were shot and wounded Saturday while travelling in a car near the front-line that divides the warring factions. Tyler Brule of Toronto was hit in both arms and his interpreter Syah Sang Zaboor, an Afghan, was shot in the neck. They were rushed to Kabul's Carte Se Hospital. Neither had injuries that were life threatening, doctors said. There are several armed factions in the area and it was not immediately clear who fired on them. The two were in a car belonging to Medecins Sans Frontieres, a French-hased medical aid group. but apparently went into a front-line area they had been warned to stay away from.

Rock star Cobain out of coma

ROME (R) - Kurt Cobain, the lead singer and guitarist with rock band Nirvana, is out of a coma and in improved condition after overdosing on a mixture of drink and tranquillisers, the Rome American Hospital said on Saturday, "Today he came out of the coma ... is able to breathe sufficiently and can talk." the hospital said in a statement. Cobain was rushed to hospital early on Friday morning after falling ill in the luxury Rome Hotel where he was enjoying a few days' holiday with his wife and two-year-old daugher. The 27-year-old Cobain has admitted to using heroin in the past but the hospital statement said that his illness was caused by the effects of alcohol and tranquiltisers which he had been prescribed.

India, Iran, China ministers to meet

NEW DELHI (R) - The foreign ministers of India, Iran and China may meet in Tehran to discuss mounting Western pressure on their governments to stop alleged humanrights violations. Indian diplomats said on Saturday. They said Indian External Affairs Minister Dinesh Singh left for Tehran on Saturday, ostensibly to attend an India-Iran joint commission meeting. But, they said, apart from his talks with Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, Mt. Singh would also meet Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen who arrived in Tehran Friday.

SANAA (AP) - Abdullah Sallal, the first president of

Yemen's first president dies

Yemen after the overthrow of the feudal imam, died Saturday of a heart attack. He was 74. Sallal was a member of the "dialogue committee" that was mediating for months to end a political crisis between leaders of the unified republic of conservative North Yemen and the former Marxist South Yemen. Sallal was present at last month's ceremony in Amman hosted by King Hussein at which the feuding leaders signed a reconciliation charter. The government announced three days of official mourning for Sallal's death, with flags flown at half mast (King sends condolences, page 3), Sallal was born 1915 in Sanaa, and educated in Iraq. Chief of staff to the imam, Sallal led a movement of free officers within the army and, with the help of Egypt, overthrew the imam in 1962. He became president of the revolutionary change, and carried the rank of field marshal. But while on a visit to Egypt in 1967, he was himself overthrown in a peaceful revolution by Judge Abdul Rahman Al Irvani. The lattet also was to lose his position and live in exile in Syria. The two men were pardoned and allowed to return in the early 1980s by Ali Abdullah Saleh, the president of North Yemen who has remaloed president of the unified republic of north and south.



IFTAR: His Majesty King Husseln Saturday bosted an iftar at Basman Palace in honour of Cental Bank of Jordan Governor Mohammad Saced Al Nabulsi, governors, leaders of Palestinian refugee camps, beads of professional and labour unions and associations and chairmen of baseds of banks. The banquet was attended by

Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Mnhammad, the military secretary of the King, His Royal High-ness Ghazi Ben Mohammad. Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid and the King's advisors.

Officials deny Brooklyn attackers linked to any militant group

Police recovered an array of

automatic weapons after

arresong Mr. Baz, including

the two semi-automatics police

said were used in the attack

that left one student brain dead

and another critically wound-

ed. Twn others suffered lesser

NEW YORK (Agencies) -There is no evidence that the three men arrested in the Brooklyn Bridge attack on Jewish students were part of a militant Arah group, author-

But they refused to comment on another report that said alleged gunman Rashad Baz, 28, was linked to a Lehanese heroin ring with possible des to the Hizbollab

New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, speaking at a news conference with Police Commissioner William Bratton and Federal Bureau of Investigaoons (FBI) Regional Director William A. Gavin, said there was no truth to an ABC-TV news report broadcast Thursday. Mr. Giuliani said the FBI

and city police checked carefully to see "if there is any substance to the story... and there appears to be "none." The network, citing unidentified sources, said Mr. Baz and the other two men arrested in the case — Hlal Mohammad, 32, and Bassam Reyad, 27 — were part of a U.S. enclave of militant Arabs being watched by the FBI and Israel's Mossad.

ABC also said the weapons linked to Tuesday's ambush on a van filled with young rabbinical students was part of a larger cache expected to be used in future attacks.

Mr. Baz is a Lehanese national and Mr. Reyati and Mr. Mohammad come from

PARIS (R) - Algerian Presi-

dent Liamine Zeroual, in his

latest move in an emerging

campaign to end civil strife.

Saturday formed an inner cir-cle of advisers who favour dia-

logue with Muslim fun-

Mr. Zeroual's office

announced that Ahmad

Ouvahia, former secretary of

state for cooperation and

North African affairs at the

Foreign Ministry, was

appointed chief aide to the

The statement, quoted by

the state news agency APS

monitored in Paris, also said

senior diplomat Mihoubi

Mihouh would become di-

plomatic counsellor and offi-

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rian head of state had named

an official spokesman, high-

lighting the importance Mr.

Zeroual attaches to communi-

It was the first time an Alge-

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president.

guashot wounds in Tuesday's "There is nothing that we have come across in any of our investigations to corroborate the ABC report," Mr. Bratton ABC said the FBI and the

Mossad have had all three meo under surveillance "for some

Mr. Gavin, deputy assistant director in charge of the FBI's New York office, also said the ABC report was not accurate. "Looking at everything we have at our control - our

resources and contacts with other members of the intelligence community, along with ourselves - there is no basis. for that story that was re-

But Mr. Gavin also said that does not mean they would not investigate such allegations in the future. "You never close the door on an issue like this," be said. Mr. Gavin refused to com-

ment wheo asked if the three were lioked to last year's World Trade Centre bombing.

Nor would any of the officials comment on a daily news report that Mr. Baz is part of an internacional drug ring that may have ties to Hizbollah. Mr. Giuliani said to com-

Algerian leader picks advisers

North African Affairs.

directed the Foreign Ministry's

Department of Arab and

Mr. Zeroual named Yousef

Al Khaob as his personal coun-

sellor, underscoring his willing-

ness to open a dialogue with

the opposition and, more parti-

Mr. Khaob, a veteran of

Algeria's war of independence

from France, presided over an

official commission of national

dialogue which broke a polioc-

al taboo by speaking directly to

the outlawed Islamic Salvacon

The eight-member commis-

sion, including three army generals, established contact

with seven FIS leaders held in

Two of the seven, jailed

since July 1992 after being con-

victed by a military court of

violation national security.

Mr. Zeroual, a former

general appointed in January

a military prison in Blida.

were freed on Feb. 22.

cularly, fundamentalists.

Front (FIS).

Families of convicts

ment further would compromise any ongoing investigations. Mr. Baz has been charged with 15 couots of attempted murder. He war ordered held without bail after his arraignment Thursday.

Mr. Mohammad, the owner of the auto repair shop where Mr. Baz took the car used in the attack, and Mr. Reyati, Mr. Baz's boss at the livery sbop, were charged with hindering prosecution for helping Mr. Baz after the attack.

Mr. Mohammad was released oo bail from Rikers Island on Friday. Mr. Revati remains jailed.

Mr. Baz deoied planning the attack in his statement to police. At one point during the lengthy quescioning, he said the shooting was the result of a traffic dispute that began wheo the van driver cut him off.

In Beirut, the parents of Mr. Baz were quoted Saturday as saying their son was innocent and pleaded for his return

"I don't think my soo would carryout an attack like that because we raised him to respect all religions," Najib Baz. 60, was quoted by Al Nahar newspaper as saying in Beirat.

The father pleaded with the United States and the international community to stand by his son and allow him to return to his native Lebanon.

"He was a serious studeot. against violence and injustice. and he never thought of hating Jews," Rashad's mother Suheila, a Palestinian in ber 50s, was quoted as saying.

violence that has rocked the

country - wooing the FIS

while ruthlessly hunoing down

Algerian newspapers have

said the government may be

preparing to free FIS leaders

Ahassi Madani and Ali

Belhadi, but the Algiers daily

Al Watan quoted a military

prosecutor on Thursday as

saying no such decision bad

Diplomats have guesconed

whether FIS leaders have any

influence over the militants af-

ter two years of accelerating

poliocal violence esomated to

have killed at least 3,000 peo-

Another member of the

commission, Ahmad Sabhadji.

a general and former director

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Algeria's former ambassa-

dor to India, Ahmad Attaf,

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tial protocol.

Russia pledges to stép up Middle East peace effort

TUNIS (AP) — Russia plans to accelerate its efforts to negociate peace in the Middle East in the wake of the Hebron massacre, a Russian envoy told Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Ara-

Russia and the United States are co-sponsoring the peace talks, halted when a Jewish settler gunned down Muslims praying in a Hebron mosque Feb. 25, killing at least 60 people.

Syria, Lebanoo and Jordan have withdrawn from the negodadons in protest, and the PLO says it will not resume talks unless Israel acts on Palestinian demands for better protection from such violence. The Russian commitment

was made by Igor Ivanov, a first deputy foreign minister, during a meeting with Mr. Arafat Friday night, the Russian embassy said in a news

Mr. Ivanov, making bis second visit to the Tunis beadquarters of the PLO in four days, also reviewed with Mr. Arafat efforts under way in the U.N. Security Council to issue a resolution on the Hebron bloodbath.

The PLO is pressing the Security Council to send U.N. peacekeepers to protect Palestinians in the Israelioccupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Israel rejects such

The two sides dwelled on the efforts to adopt an active resolution which will help in easing tension and resume the oegotiations," the embassy

The PLO news agency WAFA said Mr. Ivanov carried "a very important message" from Russian President Boris Yeltsin to Mr. Arafat and briefed him about his meetings with the Israeli leaders. It did not give further

Russian officials accompanying Mr. Ivanov refused to divulge details about his talks with Mr. Arafat as well as Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.
But PLO officials said the

details.

Russians are trying to convince the two rivals to accept Russian observers in the occupied territories in an attempt to break the deadlock caused by

In an interview with the German magazine Der Spiegel, Mr. Arafat was quoted as doubting Israel's commitment

to the peace process. "It seems as though they don't want peace," be said in interview excerpts provided by the magazine in advance of its publication Monday.

Mr. Arafat was quoted as saying the Hebron massacre gave a boost to Palestinian extremists and the situation was "highly critical." Only a quick implementation of the antonomy accord and a rapid pullout of Israeli troops would relax tension, he said.

Defendant in Bush plot trial retracts confession

KUWAIT (Agencies) - The only defendant to plead guilty in an alleged Iraqi plot to kill former U.S. President George Bush bas retracted an earlier confessioo that he had an explosive belt to use in his mis-

"In fact, it was a gun belt with bullet pockets," Wali Al Ghazali, a 36-year-old male nurse. Saturday told the judge presiding over a state security court hearing the case of 14 Iraqis and Kuwaitis accused of taking part in the alleged plan.

He told the court he discarded the belt when he decided to flee back to Iraq on

Mr. Ghazali told the oo-jory court on the first day of the trial that opened in June 1993 that Iraqi intelligence agents gave him an explosive-laden car to blow op at Kuwait Umiversity, where Mr. Bush was to be honoured for his role in assembling an international coalition that evicted Iraq's army from Knwait three years

He also said at the beginning of the trial that he was ordered to wear the belt, get as close as he could to the visiting former American president and blow himself up in case the car bomb did not work.

Mr. Ghazali's lawyer told the court the man was too stupid for Baghdad to bave choseo bim as a killer.

"That is the most stupid thing to do, that I sent somebody who is stupid to carry out a mission of top importance. Where is the planning?" Mujbil Al Rashdan said.

Mr. Rashdan, one of several defence lawyers, was presenting closing arguments at the nine-month-old trial in which the Iraqis and one of three accused Kuwaitis face the death penalty. The lawyer did not explain to

the court why Mr. Ghazali had admitted being ordered by fraqi intelligence to blow up Mr. "I have been done injustice "Even those who sent me, I'm not acquainted with them, by

When the judge asked him why he had obeyed them if he did not know them, Mr. Ghazali replied: "They have their Mr. Ghazali has previously said he was an unwilling recruit

and Iraqi officers had made clear his family might suffer if he refused the mission. Another Iraqi defendant, Raad Al Assadi, has admitted being told by Iraqi intelligence

to help Mr. Ghazali set bombs io shops and car showrooms hut denied knowledge of any assassination plot. The other 12 defendants deny any involvement in the alleged plot and most of the

Iraqi defendants say they came to Kuwait to see friends and family, seek loans or collect money owed to them or to help smuggie or sell alcohol. Prosecutors have asked for the 11 Iragis and one Kuwaiti

to be sentenced to death with 10-year jail terms for two Kuwaitis accused of complic-

Iraq says Kuwait and the United States fabricated the plot to try to tighten economic sanctions against Baghdad.

The United States launched a cruise missile attack on Iraqi intelligence headquarters in Baghdad on June 27 after saying it had found compelling evidence that Iraq was involved in the plot.

Verdicts were to have been issued Dec. 25, but the indge decided then that the court oeeded to quescion again the security officer who headed the invesogation. Court-appointed lawyers

have accused the officer, Abdul Sammad Al Sbatti, of failing to produce any evidence against the accused. "All of his information is

based on what he believes and what he thinks is possible," Mohammad Al Yassin, lawyer of Mr. Assadi told the

New generation shows drab fashions in Paris

PARIS (R) - A new genera-

tion of designers kicked off the Paris ready-to-wear shows. veeriog away from fashion's beaten path and walking headlong into a ditch. Belgian avant-gardist Dries Van Noten. France's Christophe. Lemaire and the up-andcoming Mariot Chanet Fashion House packed their venues for shows that stressed innovation rather than elegance. Van Noten, presecong his second women's catwaik show, dressed pubescent, waif-like models in creased or worn fabrics of drab brown, grey and beighted designer took the deconstructist school of fashion to an extreme: Shabby masculine jackets, long wrap skirts of rumpled crepe and bathrobe coats in the first half of the show were dreary. A pregnant model with greasy blond hair wearing an old blue sweater dress with a chiffon underskirts looked like one of the thousands of homeless stranded on Paris streets this winter. Ratty velvet coats with narrow shoulders were from Oliver Twist's pickpocket days, while sweaters that had been laundered too ofien matched lingerie-like apron skirts of mauve or dusty rose. Flowered crepe kimonos that might have been pulled from a grandmother's trunk were thrown over tweed jackets and trousers. A scarf of shimmering persimmon or a skirt of hurnisbed raw silk provided welcome splashes of colour. Van Noten, a virtual newcomer to the Paris catwalk. has become spectacularly popular in a matter of months. His collections draw several hundred people, his clothes sell in New York. Paris and Lond

Zaire expels film-maker

KINSHASA (R) — A Belgian

film-maker who once made a damning documentary about Zaire's regime was put on a flight and expelled from the organisation, La Voix Des Sans-Voix (The Voice Of The Voiceless), said Thierry Michel, an independent filmmaker, was taken away for quesooning by Zaire's Intelligence Services Thursday. Diplomatic sources in Kinshasa confirmed that Mr. Michel spent a night in detention and was then put aboard an over-night Sabena Belgian airline flight bound for Brussels. No official explanation has been given for his expulsion. But La: Voix Des Sans-Voix said the move appeared to be in retaliation for a highly criticaldocumentary Mr. Michel had made on President Mobutu Sese Seko's regime. Mr. Michel, who was researching a new documentary on expansion ates living in Zaire, arrived in Kinshasa 12 days ago and was waiting for his film crew to arrive. Diplomatic sources said his visa was in order at the time of his expulsion. Shunned by his former Western allies, President Mobutu has recently been showing signs of wanting to improve his image abroad, granting a spate of interviews to foreign journalists. But the Zairean authorities remain sensitive to criticism, particularly when it comes from Belgium, the country's former colonial master.

Geldof declared Bankrupt

LONDON (R) — Rock star Bob Geldof, who helped to raise million victimas for African famine victimas for been declared hankrupt after failing to pay a £5.00 (\$7.455) car rental bill, British newspapers reported Saturday. The newspaper said the bankruptcy petition from car rental company Landhurst Leasing was granted by the High Court Thursday. Under British bank ruptcy laws, Geldoof now has 21 days to declare all his assets to the official receiver. The Department of Trade and Industry confirmed that Geldof had been declared bankrupt but gave no details of the petition. Irishman Geldof, 41, led international relief appeal for famine victims in Ethiopia in the 1980s, organising concerts and charity runs to raise money. The Sun newspaper quoted a spokesman for Gel dof as saying the singer forgo to pay the bill and the matte would be resolved immediate ly. If he settles the debt, the order will be annulled.

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replaced Ahmad Ouyahia as cating with the public, a task by Algeria's military leadto (by Iraq), and done myself secretary of state for cooperaneglected by his predecessors. ership, appers to have a twooon and North African affairs. injustice," Mr. Ghazali said. pronged strategy to tackle the Mr. Mihoub previoosly in U.S. blast denounce verdict

AMMAN (Agencies) — The families of two Jordanians convicted in the New York World. Trade Centre hombing Saturday described the verdict as unjust and accused Israel's secret service of framing them to distort the image of Arabs and

A jury on Friday convicted Mobammad Salameh, Nidal Ayyad and two others in the Feb. 26, 1993 bombing, which killed six people and injured more than 1,000.

U.S. District Court Judge Kevin Duffy set sentencing for May 4. The defendants could face life in arrena without

Amin Schenic v. 51. anethred army lieutenant, insisted that his son Mohammad, 26, the eldest of 11 children, was inno-

cent. Amin, who heard the newsof the guilty verdict through the media hours after it was

issued in New York, said his son spoke with him three days earlier and was confident he would be acquitted. "He said he would be with

us here in a few days," said Amin, who now works for a customs clearing agency. "His lawyer also spoke to me and said the charges against my soo were unfounded and unsubstantiated." "I am shocked by this ver-

dict," he said. "How could a court in America, well known for its sound justice system. find an innocent man guilty of a crime he did not commit?" He avaised israci's secret

ក្នុងប្រជាទី២ ខេត្តក្រុង behing are case if only to distort the image of Islam and Arabs around the world." Reem Ayyad, 20, wife of

Nidal Avvad, who is visiting

relatives in Jordan, said she

fainted when she heard news of

"Unfortunately, the American justice was not fair to my husband," she said. "There is a political motive behind this

"The Americans are bowing to Israeli pressures to darken the image of Arabs in general and Muslims in particular." she said. "The Israeli intelligence played a big role in

"Im sure that my husband is inoocent even if they sentenced him for life," she added,

"Reem had great hopes in God that this would not hapren," sud Abdulich Gaboua. Contract Age Ma. Arrad was a Shoutharyear. engineer for the Ailied Signal

"Nidal called us this morning and said he was confident in the jury and was hopeful of being cleared. He even told Reem he would call her from outside the jail later in the In addition to Mr. Salameh. the two other defendants are

Mahmoud Abu Halima, and Ahmad Ajaj. Two others. Ramzi Yousef and Abdul Yasın, remain fugitives. The charges against the four men centred on a key allega-

tion that they conspired to willfully, knowingly and maliciously destroy buildings in the United States. God wreak revenge on

them because they have done injustice to my son, said Mr. Salameh's mother Aisheh, sobbing hysterically as she stood on the concrete front steps of her shabby home.

"I swear by God my son is innocent, there is nothing to indict him and we know that." said the 45-year-old mother of 13 children, looking pale and drawn behind a white heads-

Mr. Salameh. 26, rented the storage locker where the chemicals used in the explosion were stored. Prosecutors said the chemicals for the bomb were mixed in his apartment.

Neighbours peeped through windows in this working class city of Zarga. 25 kilometres from Amman which is home to many Palesonian refugees like Mr. Salameh's family who were forced to leave the West Bank after Israel seized it in

Others rushed to the street praising Mr. Salameh as a model of proper behaviour and cursing America and the new U.S.-led world order they perceive as waging war on Islam.

The four defendants were convicted of all 11 counts in an indictment alleging they were part of a conspiracy to construct the bomb in New Jersey and transport it to New York in a rental van.

